BUSINESS / B1

SMC buys 34% of Bank of Commerce for P2 billion

WORLD / A25

250,000 flee homes as wildfires rage across California

ACROSS / A16

Pampanga board, gov quarrel over quarry turning into war

LIFESTYLE / D1

2bU! dream diaries: Getting a kick out of indoor football

[illegible]rgest biodiesel refinery in the world eyed in RP

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS CLOSE to forging a deal with a Singapore-based firm to build the largest biodiesel refinery in the world, a senior official yesterday said.

Peter Abaya, president of state-owned PNOC-Alternative Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC), said his company aimed to sign an agreement with Natural Resource Group in De-

LARGEST/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, October 24, 2007 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 318 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

After denials, local officials own cash gifts

By Kristine L. Alave and Michael Lim Ubac

AFTER A SERIES OF DENIALS FROM MALACAÑANG officials and keeping the people guessing for 12 long days, allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo claimed the bags of money distributed at the Palace on Oct. 11 came from their group.

The leadership of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) yesterday owned up to being the source of the

AFTER DENIALS/ A10

'Erap home for Christmas'

GMA, JDV agree on joint vision, end cold war

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and Speaker Jose de Venecia, along with former President Fidel Ramos and Vice President Noli de Castro, yesterday met behind closed doors in Malacañang and apparently ended a 12-day cold war.

Ms Arroyo presided over the emergency meeting of the National Security Council she had convened to assess the security implications of the Makati City explosion on Friday that left 11 people dead and over a hundred wounded.

The meeting became an occasion for reconciliation.

Emerging from the meeting, De Venecia told reporters that political concerns brought about by the shelved National Broadband Network (NBN) project and renewed calls for Ms Arroyo to step down over the reported Malacañang payoffs to local officials were discussed.

Apparently to put an end to the rift between the two leaders, Ms Arroyo and De Venecia initially agreed on a "joint vision" for executive-legislative reforms until 2010, and Ramos supported the truce, according to the Speaker.

The Speaker, however, indicated that Ms Arroyo should keep her part of the bargain, declaring that while everyone was saying the President was a lame duck, "she still has powers to put together powerful programs."

"I'm not giving any deadline. The President and I are crafting a joint vision of what we should

GMA, JDV/ A8

SAGISA
PINAS

ALL'S WELL AGAIN? Former President Fidel V. Ramos acts as mediator between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. in Malacañang on Tuesday after the National Security Council meeting. LYN RILLON

Glorietta blast likely an accident—PNP

By Michael Lim Ubac

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS YESTERDAY expressed "a high level of certainty" that the Friday explosion at the Glorietta 2 mall in Makati City was an accident, but said a bomb attack had not been totally ruled out.

Speaking with reporters after the National Security Council (NSC) meeting presided over by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said authorities had yet to make a definite conclusion on the cause of the blast, which was why the terrorism angle was still being studied.

"[But] I'm confident that's where we are headed because ... the reports that I have seen will give you a very high confidence level on the accuracy of their conclusion that it is in fact an accidental explosion," he said.

Philippine National Police Director General

GLORIETTA/ A19

UP profs dispute methane gas angle

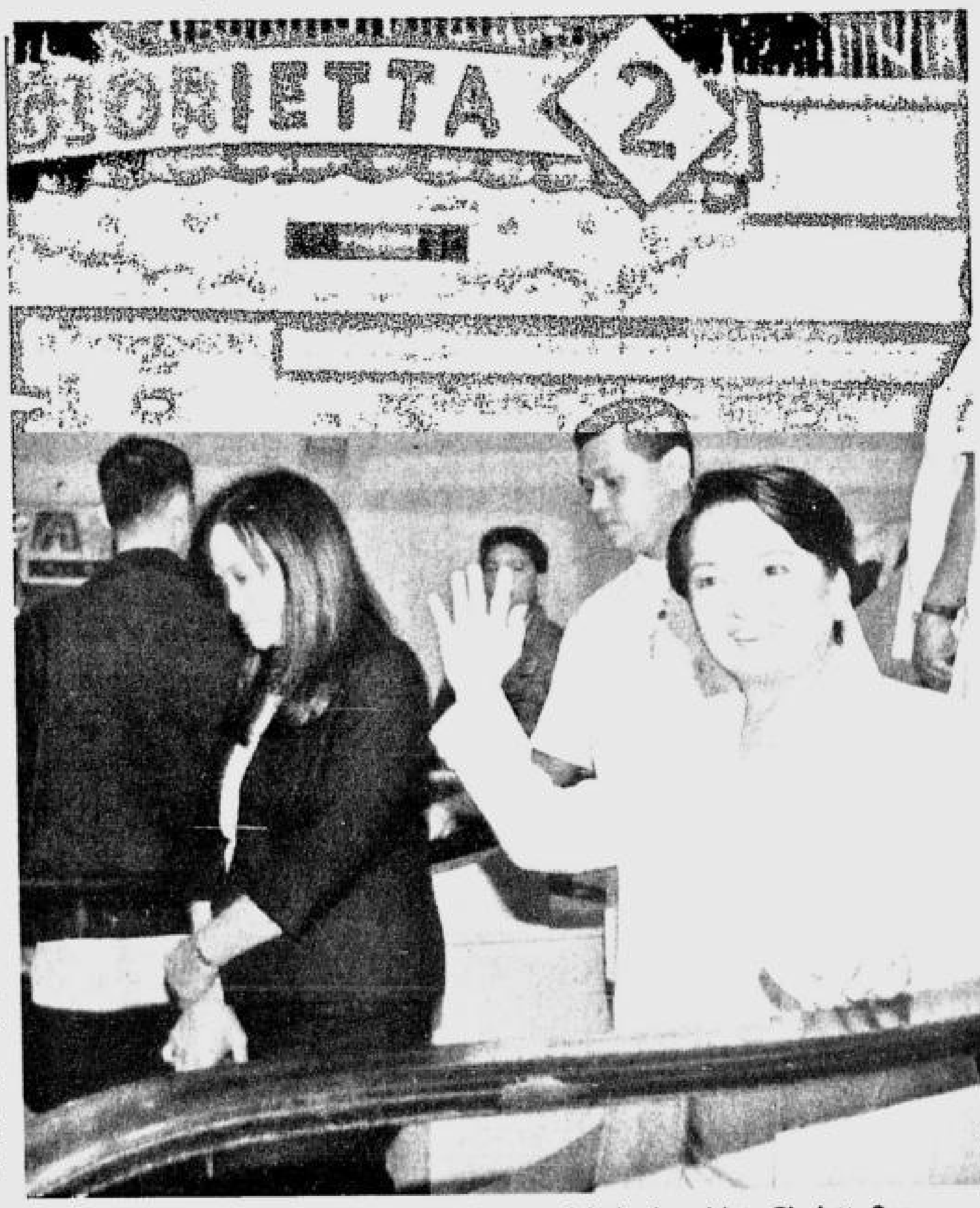
By TJ Burgonio

THE DAMAGE WROUGHT BY THE BLAST at the Glorietta 2 mall on Friday is too huge to be attributed to a methane or diesel explosion, according to two chemical engineering professors of the University of the Philippines.

Professor Ernesto dela Cruz, chair of the UP Department of Chemical Engineering, yesterday said methane could explode but that it was not likely to cause a tank of diesel to explode.

"It would require some time to heat the

UP PROFS/ A19



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo waves to the crowd during her visit to Glorietta 2 on Tuesday to allay fears that going to the mall was no longer safe. LYN RILLON

NGIII! DI PALA AKO BAGAY DUN!

'City of Brotherly Love' has ugly face, says poll

PHILADELPHIA—PHILADELPHIA is home to the least attractive people in the United States, a survey of visitors and residents showed.

The city of more than 1.5 million people was also found to be among the least stylish, least active, least friendly and least worldly, according to the "America's Favorite Cities" survey by Travel & Leisure magazine and CNN Headline News.

CITY/ A18

Puno says GMA set to grant pardon

By Michael Lim Ubac, Fe Zamora and Leila B. Salaverria

DEAL OR NO DEAL? Whatever, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno sees a homecoming for plunder convict and former President Joseph Estrada before Christmas.

"I would imagine Christmas is already a very pessimistic target. I'm hoping it would be very, very soon. It could be anytime," Puno told reporters in a brief interview in Malacañang yesterday.

Estrada, who was sentenced to life in prison by the Sandiganbayan on Sept. 12 for taking millions of pesos in bribes and kickbacks while in office, told the antigraft court on Monday that he was dropping his appeal and would seek "full, free and unconditional" pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President was reportedly elated when she was told of Estrada's decision.

The Sandiganbayan yesterday granted Estrada's motion to waive his right to appeal the

ERAP HOME/ A8

President sued over NBN deal

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DESCRIBING THE DOCTRINE of presidential immunity as an "archaic" rule that applied to kings of the past, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona yesterday filed the first criminal complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with the controversial $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

Guingona accused Ms Arroyo of violating the antigraft law for dereliction of duty and obstruction of justice by signing the NBN contract awarded to China's ZTE Corp. and scrapping it

PRESIDENT/ A8

Gloria visits Glorietta: See? It's business as usual

By DJ Yap and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SEEKING TO ALLAY FEARS that going to the mall was no longer safe, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday visited the Glorietta complex, which was hit by Friday's powerful blast Friday that left 11 people dead and more than a hundred wounded.

The President shopped for a few items, and surveyed the wreckage.

"See? It's business as usual," Ms Arroyo told onlookers, waving and smiling as she toured the sprawling complex in Makati, surrounded by Ayala Land officials led by its president, Jaime Ayala.

She bought Criselda Lontok blouses and a couple of Aero Soles shoes, according to employees of Rustan's Department Store who accompanied her.

"She picked them out herself," said one Rustan's employee. "Her staff paid for the items. Nothing was given free," another employee said. They declined to say how much Ms Arroyo spent.

Ayala showed Ms Arroyo around, pointing out the divisions between Glorietta 1, 2, 3 and 4. At one point, as they looked down at the activity center, he told Ms Arroyo: "Just look at the number of people."

The mall reopened yesterday with the lifting of the preventive closure order imposed by the Makati City government.

On Monday night, city engineers gave the mall owners the green light to operate after initial inspections showed no structural anomalies in the building following the blast.

GLORIA/ A18

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Second FRONTPAGE

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FAIRY TALE? BAKA HORROR STORY!

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the eastern sections of Central and Southern Luzon which may trigger flashfloods and landslides.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/10/23/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2

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(In exact order)

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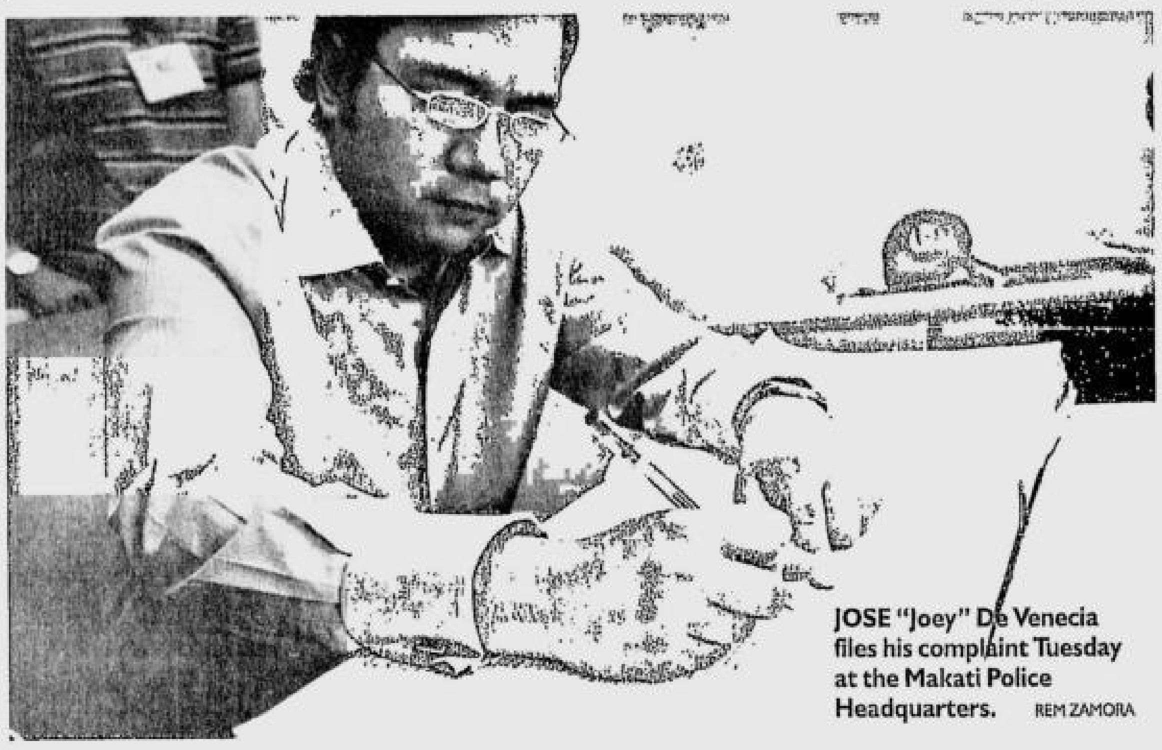

JOSE "Joey" De Venecia files his complaint Tuesday at the Makati Police Headquarters. REM ZAMORA

'They've trained their guns on me'

Joey de Venecia bares slay plot; Mendoza claims it's a fairy tale

By DJ Yap

BUSINESSMAN JOSE "JOEY" de Venecia III, the whistle-blower in the controversial ZTE national broadband deal, yesterday accused Department of Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza of plotting to kill him.

Also named in the alleged plot revealed in a complaint by the namesake son of House Speaker Jose de Venecia filed at the Makati City Central Police Headquarters were DOTC Assistant Secretary Reynaldo Berroya and Bureau of Corrections Director Ricardo Dapat.

The complaint cited information reportedly provided by retired Lt. Gen. Jaime de Los Santos who was said to have told young De Venecia that Mendoza, Berroya and Dapat—all retired Army or police generals—had targeted him and his father for elimination.

"But the generals plotting this elimination felt that it is very difficult to eliminate the Speaker as he is too high of a target and is the fourth most powerful man in the land," De Venecia III said. "Therefore they have trained their guns on me."

Dapat's role was to arrange for a convict to escape from prison and become the gunman, said De Venecia III.

But in a phone interview, De los Santos denied giving De Venecia III any such information. He said he did not want to "glorify the statements of a mentally disturbed person."

Berroya said De Venecia III should get help from a spiritista —a special healer—to rid himself of his "wild accusations." Mendoza said the alleged plot was "another fairy tale."

Dapat was not immediately available for comment.

De Venecia III said De los Santos met him, lawyer Raul Lambino and his father at the Speaker's residence at Dasmariñas Village in Makati on Friday to reveal the alleged plot.

The younger De Venecia told the Makati police that De los Santos, a former commanding general of the Philippine Army, was "worried for my welfare and my father's welfare."

He said it was Lambino, his father's lawyer and De los Santos' friend, who first told him on Thursday of the assassination plot. His father called him up and asked him to come to his house the next day, he said.

De los Santos, a former roommate of Mendoza at the Philippine Military Academy, told him he recently met with Mendoza and that Mendoza revealed to him the plot.

De Venecia said he had been receiving "sequential and progressive" death threats on random days since he appeared in a Senate inquiry and dropped the name of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, who, he said, had asked him to "back off" from the National Broadband Network Deal.

He said the death threats came in the form of text messages and calls to his prepaid lines, "which have been tapped," from just one person, judging from the voice.

He said he did not keep the messages, record the calls, or take note of the numbers the threatening messages came from.

De los Santos denied De Venecia III's claims. "I don't know where he got his information," he said.

He said it was true he went to Speaker De Venecia's house on Friday but only to discuss his proposed "moral recovery program." *With reports from Kenneth M. del Rosario and Julie M. Aurelio*

WHAT'S INSIDE

ARREST ORDER issued vs Lintang Bedol /A20

IT TOOK P500 reward to arrest 2 men wanted in Abra solon's slay /A6

SHORTER TIME to get new kidneys eyed /A9

Gov't vow: Eradicate RP poverty by 2015

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT yesterday pledged to eradicate extreme hunger, poverty and inequality by 2015 in support of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

The commitment was relayed by Acting Foreign Secretary Esteban Conejos Jr. who opened the UN MDG Exhibit at the DFA lobby, part of the celebration of the 62nd founding anniversary of the UN.

Conejos said the Philippines was committed to working for social justice, human rights and fundamental freedoms and a democratic way of life.

"We further commit to secure a world free from environmental degradation, transnational crime and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In short, we pledge to uphold universal and timeless principles enshrined in the UN charter," he said.

The MDG's eight goals range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by 2015. They form a blueprint, agreed to by all the UN member-states and the world's leading development institutions.

During the week-long celebration, a series of documentary films and feature films will be screened to provide a glimpse of the work of the UN on human rights, climate change and environmental degradation, transnational crime, armed conflict and its consequences which include genocide and children in armed conflict. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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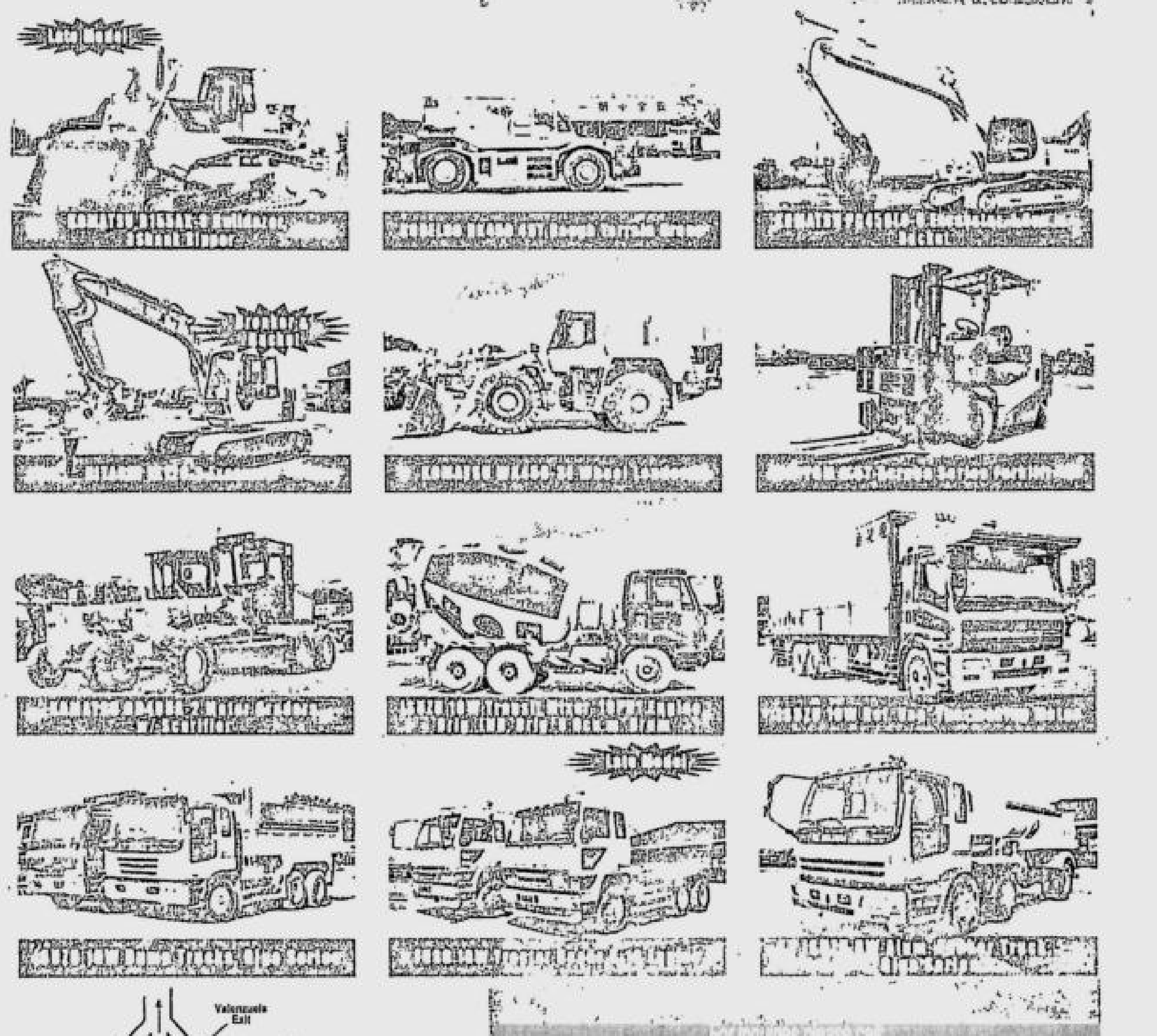

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SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

OCTOBER 25, Thursday

12 00 - 12 45pm	AV Presentation "Philippine Cancer Society" Lecture on General Information on CANCER AV Presentation "The Truth in Every Puff" by *Philippine Cancer Society*
1 00 - 1 45pm	Activ EGCG Plus For Health and Wealth by *Gemlaine Marketing and Distribution Corp.*
2 00 - 2 45pm	Medical Observer The Premier Medical Magazine in the Philippines by *Mosman Communications, Inc*
3 00 - 3 45pm	HIV and AIDS in the 21st Century by *AIDS Society of the Phils.*
4 00 - 4 45pm	Medical Aspect of Drug Abuse by *Medical Specialist - Department of Health (DOH)*
5 00 - 5 45pm	Secret Behind the Jaw by *Philippine Dental Assoc. (PDA)*

OCTOBER 26, Friday

11 00 - 11 45am	Medical & Scientific Aspect of Micro Biological Laboratory Inc by *Hospital Medical Laboratory Equipment & Supply Industry Association of the Philippines (HOMLESIAP)*
12 00 - 12 45pm	Hemosure Fecal Occult Blood Tests by *W.H.P.M Inc.*
1 00 - 1 45pm	Biomat Jade Theraphy Mattress 1st Urban Medi – Spa / Product Presentation by *Glorious Ind'l Dev't and Corp.*
2 00 - 2 45pm	Personal Awareness & Leadership Seminar by *PowerSpeak, Inc.*
3 00 - 3 45pm	Measure to Manage – Value of Regular / Accurate BP Monitoring by *Wellness Pro Incorporated*
4 00 - 4 45pm	Noise Management by *Top-Rigid Industrial Safety Supply Inc.*
5 00 - 5 45pm	Nuhart Hair Transplant by *Nuhart Hair Clinic / New York Anti – Aging Centers*

OCTOBER 27, Saturday

11 00 - 11 45am	We Take Care Of Your Sick Loved Ones by *Nightingale Nursing Services, Inc.*
12 00 - 12 45pm	Video for Business and Productivity by *TV Style*
1 00 - 1 45pm	YSA – Basic Skin Care by *YSA Skin Care Corp.*
2 00 - 2 45pm	ICD - 10 Updates by *Asia Type Dist. / World Health Org.*
3 00 - 3 45pm	"Beat the Degenerative Diseases Through Precious Serpentine Health Mat & Alkaline Ionized Water" by *Hanphil Alka-Metics Corp.*

All schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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Diagnostic Kits
Disinfectants
Disposable Articles
Equip't & Apparatus for Lab
Filling Materials
First Aid Devices & Equipment
Heating & Cooling Technology
Imaging Equipment
Instruments, Operating & Access
Laboratory Refrigerators
Laser Surgery Equipment
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US military hails RP as model for antiterror drive

By Tarra Quismundo

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII—THE UNIted States Pacific Command (Pacom) cited its cooperation with the Philippine government and the military as an example of the American military's "by, with and through" approach in its global campaign against terrorism.

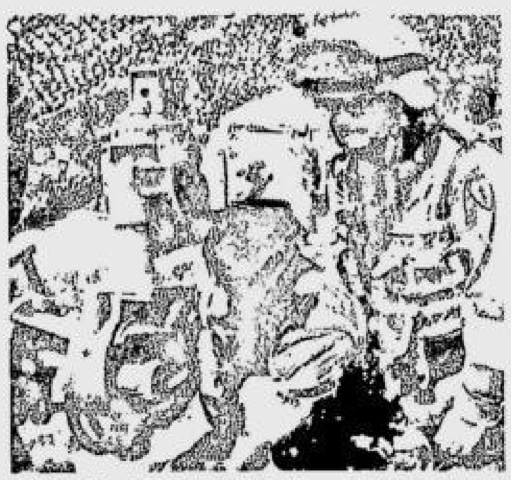
In a briefing at the command headquarters here Monday, Socpac officials said this approach puts their forces in a "partnership framework," with allied counties, and "not one of a superior power dictating on a smaller nation."

"It's top priority and we treat (the Philippine antiterror campaign) as an operation that is done by, with and through our partner countries... ," added Col. Jerry Hanlin, chief of the US Pacom's Information Superiority office.

An undisclosed number of soldiers from the Special Operations Command-Pacific (Socpac) are part of the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) that shares tactics and technical know-how with the Armed Forces of the Philippines in its war against the Islamic extremist Abu Sayyaf Group in Basilan and Sulu. The group is linked to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

This is in line with the US-led global war on terror that followed the Sept. 11 attacks on the US mainland.

The antiterror effort in Southeast Asia "is doing pretty well after years and years of effort... And the terror threat has diminished greatly in the Philippines, but there's still the threat," said Hanlin.



A U.S. Marines and a Filipino soldier during a Balikatan military exercise. TOOTS SOBERANO

"We continue work to demonstrate that our genuine intent is to work with our partners, that we're not an elephant that forces itself on others. We're just doing our part in making the region secure in accordance with the desires and objectives of our partners," Thomas said.

Pacom is among the largest unified commands of the US military, overseeing 300,000 military personnel worldwide.

There is a growing recognition that a holistic approach that combines military and civic action is what works, and this has been applied by the Philippine government very effectively in Basilan, said Army Maj. James McAden, a Pacom official and editorial staff member of the military quarterly, the Asia-Pacific Defense Forum. Local governments are empowered, he said.

"Just law enforcement or military (action) won't work," he added.

Why it rained in Metro

TWO WEATHER SYSTEMS, INCLUDING A low pressure area, yesterday brought sudden downpour in Metro Manila and the rest of the country.

The rainy weather, which began Monday, is expected to last until today, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

"We should expect this type of weather in the next 24 hours," Pagasa forecaster Rene Paciente said in a phone interview.

The country will continue to experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms that would become widespread rains over the eastern sections of central and southern Luzon, Pagasa said.

Light rain is expected to prevail in Metro Manila and the rest of the country, while light to moderate rain will continue in Quezon and Camarines Norte, Paciente said.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the Northeast will prevail over northern and eastern Luzon and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough, according to the bureau.

The tail-end of the cold front spawned rain in the metropolis, and in northern and central Luzon beginning Monday. The rain became widespread in the rest of the country Tuesday after a low pressure area developed.

The low pressure area was estimated at 70 km east northeast of Surigao at 2 p.m. Tuesday. Since it was close to land, it wasn't expected to intensify into a tropical depression, according to Paciente.

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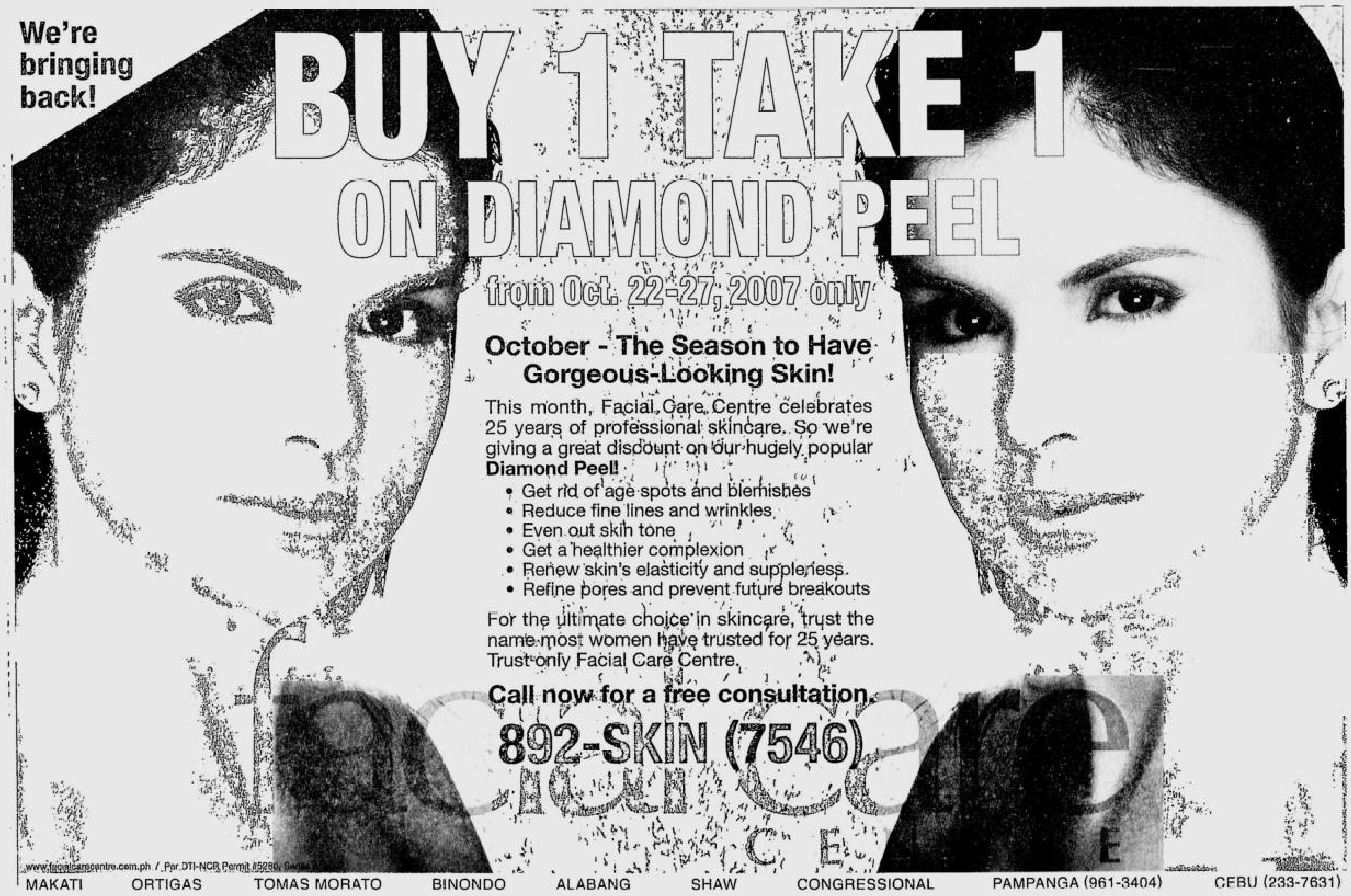

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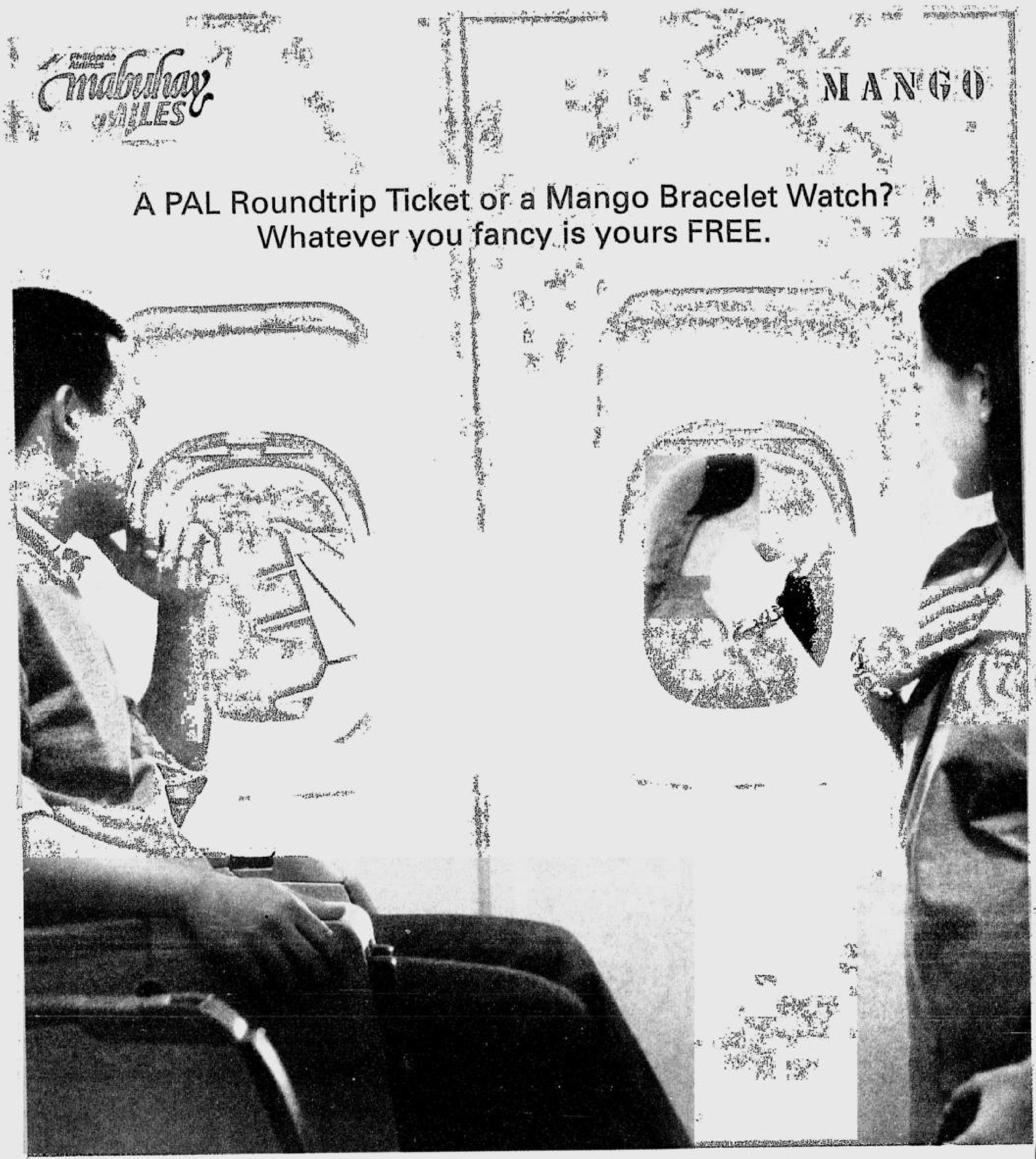
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 24, 2007
29th Week in Ordinary Time
Anthony Mary Claret

1st Reading: Rom 6:12-18
Gospel: Luke 12:39-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "Pay attention to this: If the master of the house had known at what time the thief would come, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect."

Peter said, "Lord, did you tell this parable only for us, or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Imagine, then, the wise and faithful steward whom the master sets over his other servants to give them food rations at the proper time. Fortunate is this servant if his master on coming home finds him doing his work. Truly, I say to you, the master will put him in charge of all his property.

"But it may be that the steward thinks: 'My Lord delays in coming,' and he begins to abuse the menservants and the servant girls, eating and drinking and getting drunk. Then the master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he doesn't know. He will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

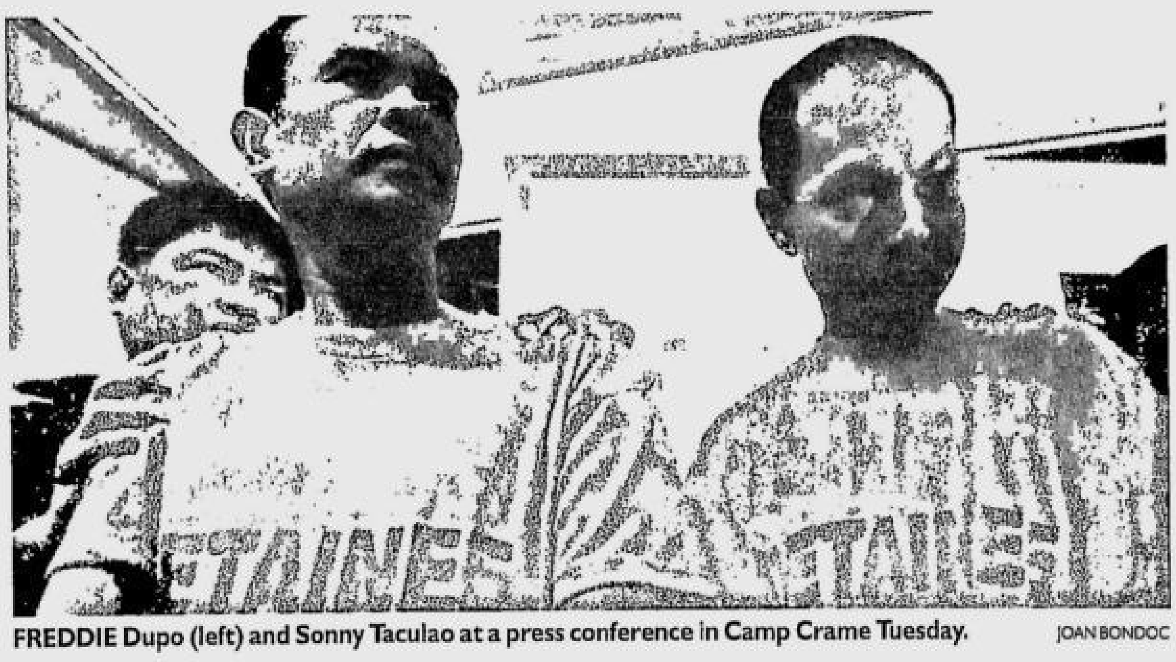
"The servant who knew his master's will, but did not prepare to do what his master wanted, will be punished with sound blows; but the one who did what deserved a punishment without knowing it shall receive fewer blows. Much will be required of the one who has been given much, and more will be asked of the one entrusted with more."

Commentary

We have been offered to God and so we must live in holiness and make sure that we do not do evil. We are to do justice and live by grace. We do not live under the law but we live in the Spirit of the law, far surpassing what is superficially expected in obedience to the law. We are the slaves of God—willing slaves of justice, freed from doing evil so that we can do the works of God.

God is always coming and we must live with the realization that God always comes when we least expect him and in ways we would not think of. We must be on our guard. The Son of Man, crucified and risen, is watching whether we are farsighted and faithful servants, intent on doing our master's will here in the world today. We have been put in charge of God's kingdom on earth, to care for the least of his children and to be the heralds of forgiveness and peace. These are our master's wishes. We have been given so much. Do we do anything near what is required of us, let alone what we should be doing in response to the Spirit in gratitude?

2 men wanted in Abra solon's slay case held


FREDDIE Dupo (left) and Sonny Taculao at a press conference in Camp Crame Tuesday. JOAN BONDOC

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—A P500 reward was all it took for police to get the former vice mayor of La Paz, Abra, who allegedly hired the man who acted as the lookout in the killing of Abra Rep. Luis Bersamin Jr.

Rizal police arrested Freddie Dupo, the former vice mayor of La Paz, in Barangay Paenan, Baras, Rizal, at about 6:30 a.m. last Sunday after two weeks of police intelligence work.

Dupo's arrest came the day after a joint team from the Rizal and Cordillera police arrested another suspect in the killing, Sonny Taculao, just a few kilometers away from where Dupo was apprehended.

Bersamin was shot to death at the compound of the Mt. Carmel Church in Quezon City on Dec. 16, 2006. His policeman bodyguard was also killed in the attack.

Task Force Bersamin, an interagency group formed to investigate the killing, has identified Dupo as having been the one who allegedly contacted Taculao to serve as the lookout in the attack.

Taculao admitted during interrogation that Dupo had allegedly paid him P30,000 for the service.

"Fortunately, our hard work paid off. We really exerted all efforts to arrest him," said Senior Supt. Freddie Panen, the Rizal police director.

Panen said that after Taculao's arrest, they distributed copies of Dupo's photo to the residents of Barangay Paenan, an upland community.

Police also offered P500 in reward money to anyone able to give information on the whereabouts of Dupo.

"You know, life is so hard now that people will be willing to give information for even a small amount," Panen said.

Late Saturday, a resident called the Rizal police office, to report seeing a man who looked like Dupo in the area.

"The informant said it was not difficult to locate Dupo. The suspect was the only new face in their neighborhood," he said.

Dupo tried to run away when police closed in but was quickly caught.

With the arrest of Dupo, who is believed to have been in direct communication with the brains in the Bersamin murder, police investigators believe they are closer to unmasking the mastermind.

But Panen refused to reveal the identity of the suspected mastermind. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

PNR told to pay victim in railroad death

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Railways was found liable for the death of a man whose car was hit and dragged by a train in Manila, the Supreme Court ruled.

The high court upheld the decision of the Court of Appeals awarding more than P170,000 to Jose Amores, who was killed in 1992 while driving his car on a railroad crossing on Kahilum II Street in Pandacan, Manila.

It said the PNR was negligent for not putting up adequate warning devices before the railroad tracks. It also found locomotive driver Virgilio Borja negligent.

Based on the evidence, the PNR train had been speeding and was not able to stop in time despite using its brakes. This was why Amores' car was dragged some distance from the point of impact.

The tribunal also noted that there was no crossing bar or guard at the intersection, despite the tracks' location near a crowded area. The "Stop, Look and Listen" sign was dilapidated and inadequate, it added in its Oct. 15 decision.

The PNR argued that Amores, who must have heard the train whistle, crossed the railroad tracks anyway, thinking he could beat the train.

It also said that being a railroad crossing, the train had the right of way. It claimed that sufficient warning signs had been installed at the crossing and that motorists should stop, look and listen.

But according to the tribunal, Amores exercised the necessary precautions to avoid getting hurt.

Based on the testimonies of witnesses, when he reached the railroad crossing, he slowed down to a complete stop. Only after making sure there was no danger to his life did he cross the tracks. *Leila Salaverria*

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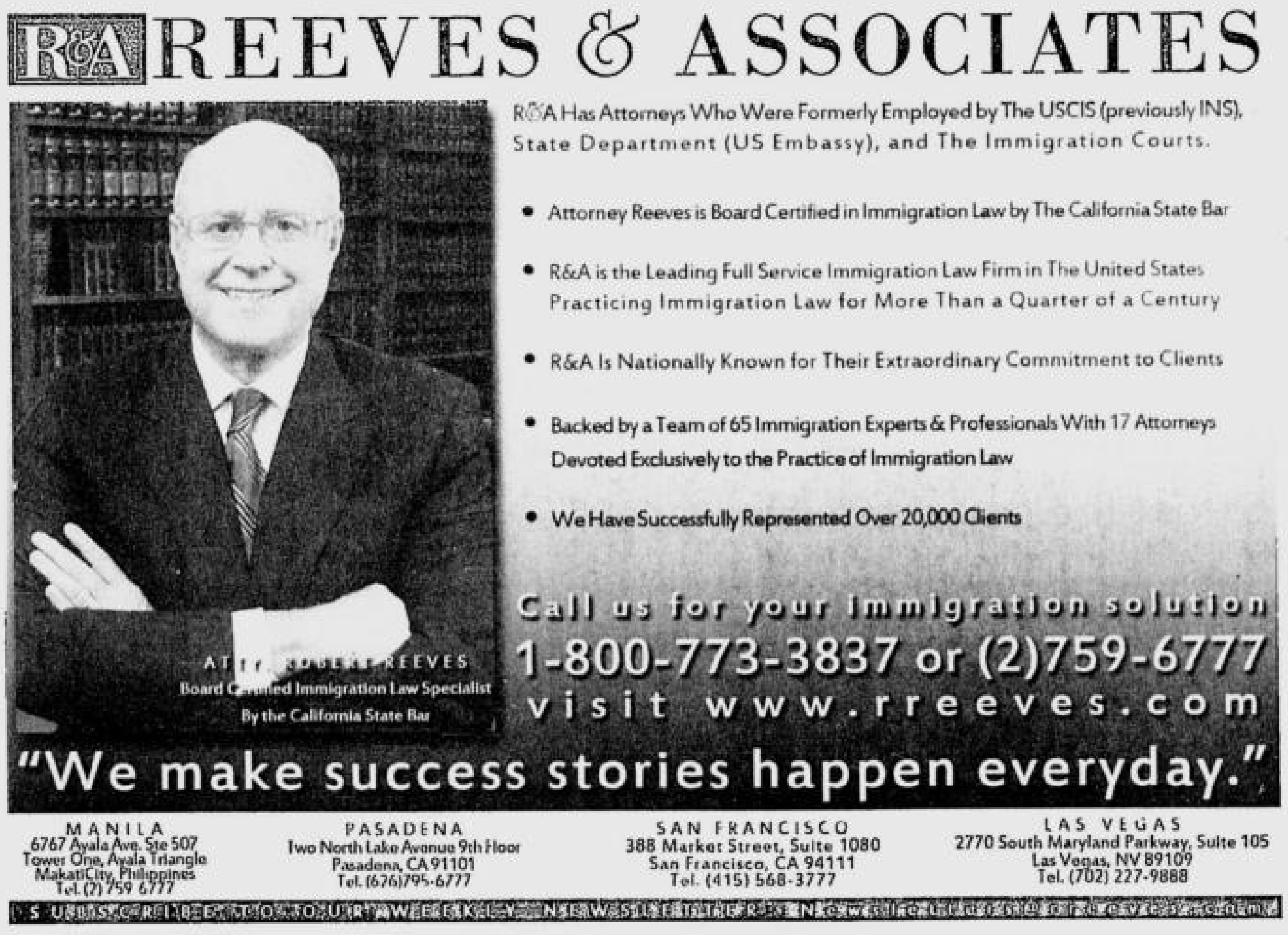
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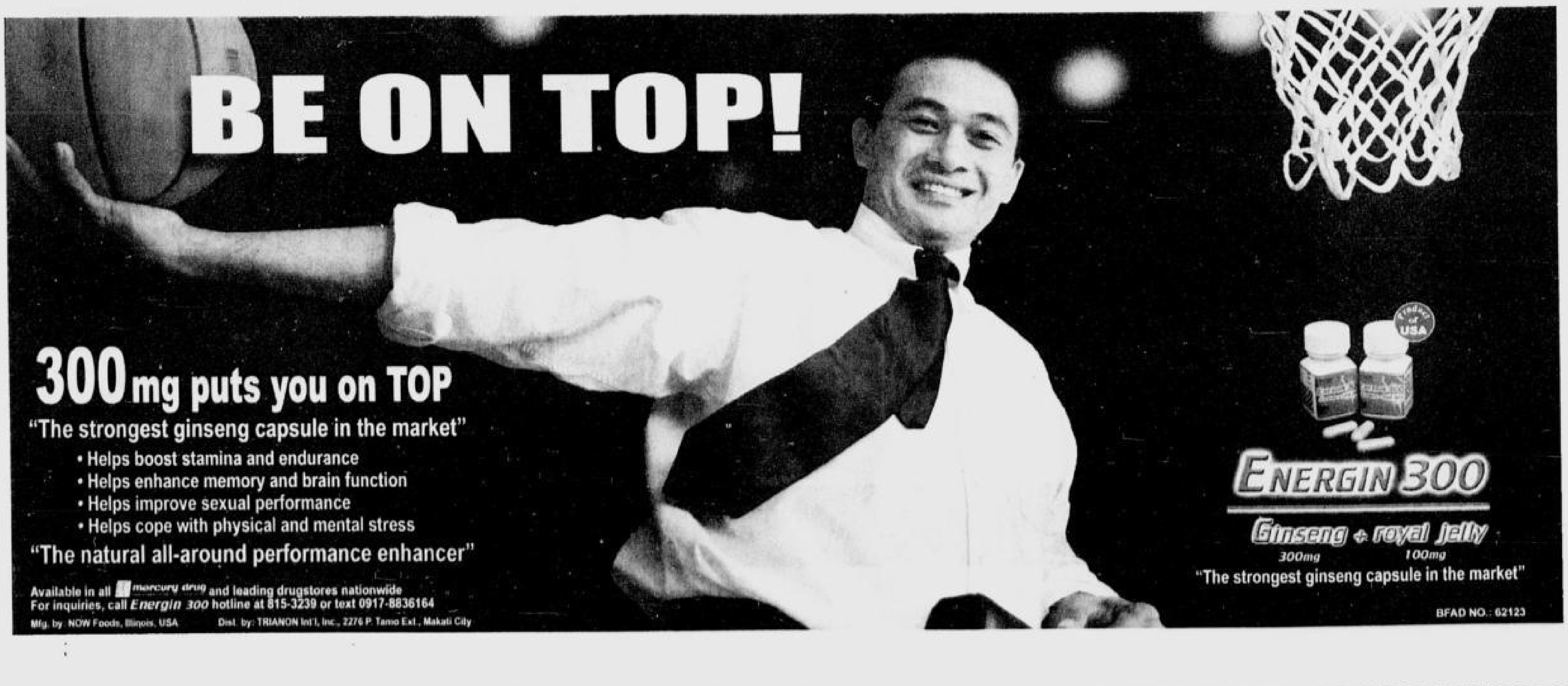
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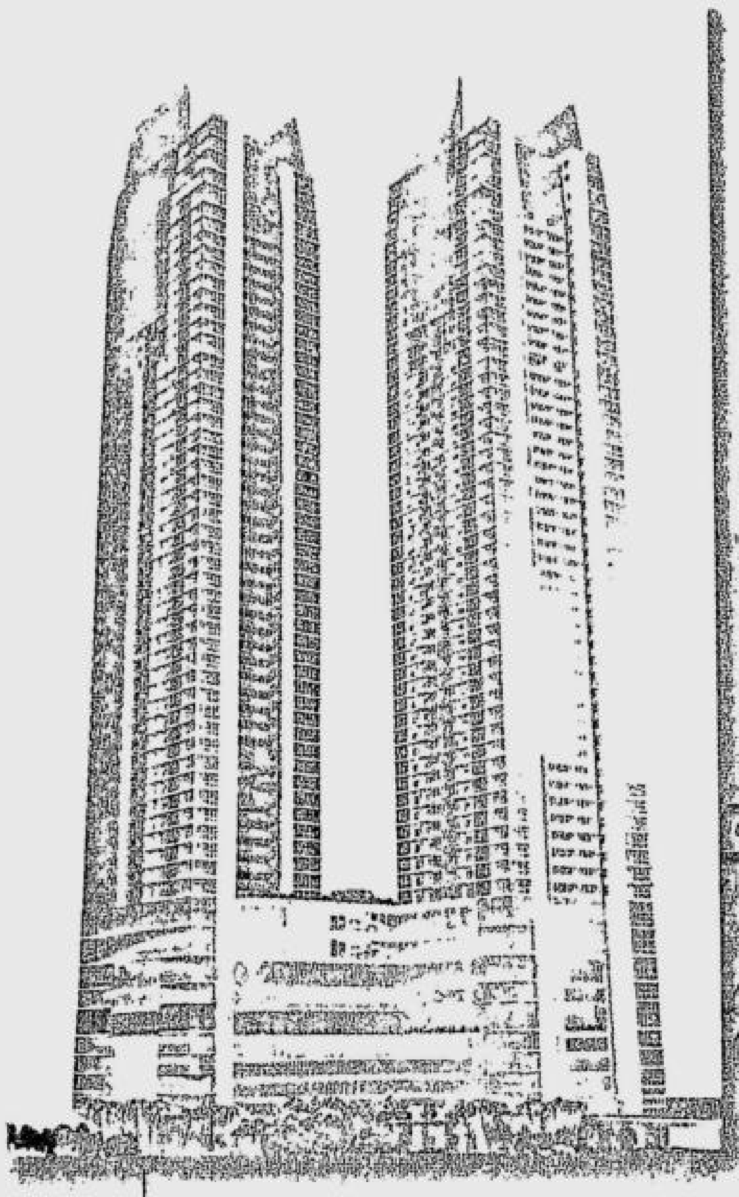

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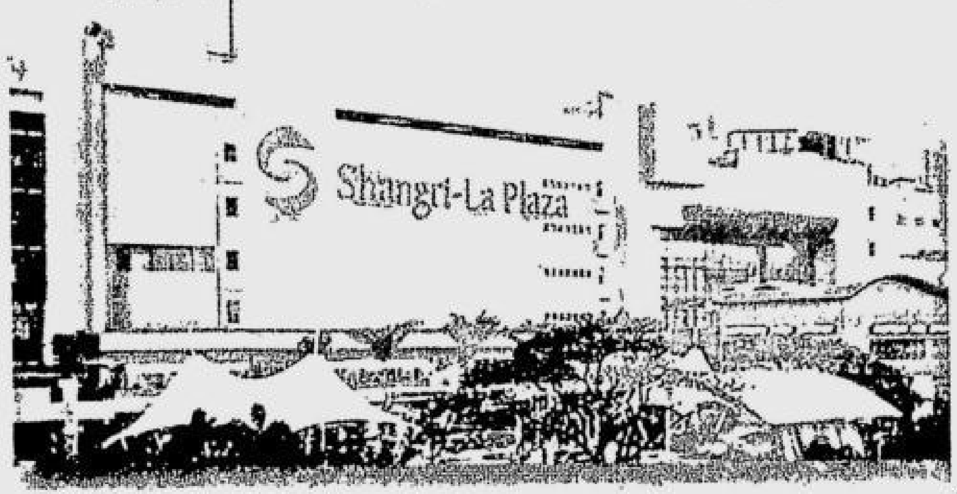

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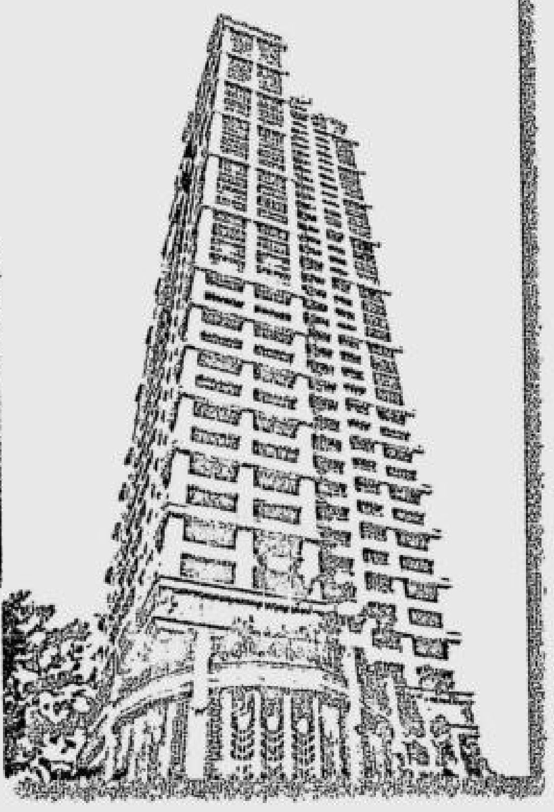

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'Erap home for Christmas'

From page A1

conviction. Dropping the appeal makes the court's decision final and paves the way for the process of initiating a presidential pardon.

"We don't want to leave this thing (pardon) hanging so that people are wondering whether the administration is using this as leverage for anything," said Puno, who was assigned by Ms Arroyo to hold talks with the ousted leader on a possible pardon.

"Request for pardon is in itself a gesture of reconciliation, and I'm very confident that this atmosphere of reconciliation will be fostered by the administration because the President, after all, has been constantly speaking about everybody coming together in unified fashion to help the country move forward."

Puno said he expected an "expeditious" process now that Estrada had filed a petition for pardon.

"I don't think she (Ms Arroyo) keeps this thing hanging because we should really take aggressive steps to attempt to bring everybody together ... into a less acrimonious, a less hostile environment for democratic debate. And I think she is going to do it."

'Political accommodation'

Carol Araullo, convenor of PlunderWatch which was among the groups that filed a case against Estrada with the Ombudsman, said: "It's all about political accommodation, but *mas nakakahiya ang gobyerno* (It's more embarrassing for the government.)

The "deal" to give pardon to Estrada seemed to validate what PlunderWatch had been saying all along—that the trial was all about political exigencies, Araullo said in a phone interview yesterday.

"The Sandigan conviction means nothing after all," she said.

"This kind of deal is unacceptable. It is not in accord with due process, there seems to be indecent haste on the part of the government to put this behind us. What will the government get from this? Some reprieve, perhaps. Maybe it is in such a stage of siege, that's why it has to resort to this?"

Prosecutors

The chief government prosecutor and lawyers who won the plunder conviction opposed moves to grant Estrada an early presidential pardon.

"The timing is not good. It's too early," Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio told The Associated Press.

"The significance of the verdict has not even sunk in yet after almost seven years" of trial, he said, adding that the government should use the conviction to set an example in its fight against corruption.

He said the international community also needed to see that the Philippines was serious in its anticorruption campaign because of the government's reputation of being graft-ridden.

Villa-Ignacio said he was not against a pardon, "but it should come at the appropriate time."

DOJ recommendation

The Department of Justice will likely recommend to the President this week the granting of executive clemency to Estrada on condition that his assets would be forfeited as directed by the Sandiganbayan.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera also said Estrada's full civil and political rights could be restored, including allowing him to seek public office anew. "Well, it's shaping up to be that," she said.

Devanadera said she was just waiting for two requirements before making the recommendation—withdrawal of the convict's motion for reconsideration and the Sandiganbayan order on the withdrawal.

"The legal requirements have to be satisfied ... What's going to be asked is if executive clemency can be exercised. Of course, if it's final, then the executive clemency can be exercised already by the President," she told reporters.

Devanadera said the department could only suggest the "legal" choices that Ms Arroyo may take in exercising her clemency powers. Giving Estrada "full and unconditional pardon" would depend on Ms Arroyo, she said.

Devanadera said she was inclined to suggest that the government retain Estrada's assets that were ordered forfeited in the plunder conviction, including the "Boracay mansion" and the P200-million in funds of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

"Whether or not President Erap will accept the pardon as worded, that will depend on him," she said. It would also be up to him to decide on whether he would accept the continued forfeiture of his assets, she added.

Admission of guilt

Lawyer Arno Sanidad, who helped prosecute Estrada, opposed any pardon unless the former President admitted to crime.

"Pardon is for one who admits his guilt and is sincerely remorseful for his crime," Sanidad said. "His crime is to the nation. Until he accepts his guilt and asks for forgiveness from our people, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has no right to grant him pardon."

Araullo said pardon could only be acceptable if there was "restitution and admission of guilt."

Devanadera said she would not insist that Estrada admit his guilt. "What is important to us is the decision of conviction, the judgment of conviction. But as to the admission, I would regard it as something that's personal to President Erap."

Reconciliation

Puno said Estrada "has done in action something that would constitute an attempt to foster reconciliation. I'm confident President Arroyo will reciprocate with a similar aggressive action to foster reconciliation among political factions."

He said the earlier the executive department act on the application for clemency, the better for everyone. "I'm going to recommend immediate action on this so that it will not be festering for awhile."

The interior secretary denied that Malacañang would seek an "arrangement" or something in exchange for the grant of absolute pardon.

Acting Executive Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Palace officials "respect the decision of the former President to ask for a pardon and this was done officially by a letter of his counsel."

He said it was "premature to comment on the outcome" of the DOJ process which could lead to the "possible consideration of an executive clemency."

Age matters

Devanadera said that Estrada's being already 70 years old was another factor that could help bring about the grant of executive clemency.

"That's the best grounds to ask for presidential pardon ... It's on record [that] the President has approved a lot of those who sought executive clemency and the reason is they have reached 70. Plus the higher interest of what is good for the Filipino people in general," she said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Estrada's decision to withdraw his appeal before the Sandiganbayan had "disappointed" many of his allies and followers, but they should just respect it to let his conviction become final.

"It's Erap's call. It's his liberty that is at stake. If he wants to be pardoned by the President, let it be. Let us not make the situation more difficult for the nation," Pimentel said.

Herman Tiu-Laurel, deputy secretary general of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), said the request for pardon came as a surprise to the party. "(But) we don't expect him to explain it to us. We can only speculate. As we see it, he is in a very vulnerable psychological and emotional state," he said.

Pimentel, who was Senate President during Estrada's impeachment trial in 2000, said he was in favor of granting pardon to Estrada to "lessen political tension" faced by the Arroyo administration from the ousted leader's followers.

Precedent-setting

But Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan questioned Malacañang's motive for granting Estrada pardon.

"There are already speculations that President Arroyo is bound to grant Erap pardon to set precedent in case she, too, finds herself in the same predicament in the future," he said.

"Bottom line here is, be it Erap or PGMA in hot water, pardon must not be used as a tool to mock our justice system," he added.

In Iloilo, two groups are opposing the granting of presidential pardon.

"What gives a person, though elected, the right to help himself to the money of the people for his whims and caprices while (the people) languish in poverty? Now, he want us to have the conscience to pardon him?" said Kristin Treñas, a leader of the local Estrada Resign Movement in 2001.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Panay said granting pardon to Estrada would "only benefit Arroyo who is trying to win over Estrada's supporters to stem the growing movement to oust her from office." *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas; AP*

GMA, JDV agree on joint vision, end cold war

From page A1

push for the country and for people until 2010. That, to me, is very important because we can't continue to court darkness, investigations here, there, bribery here, there," he said.

De Venecia said his proposed reforms in the Cabinet and governance as a whole, if followed, will give Ms Arroyo "a strong finish."

To dispel innuendos that "she's lame duck," the President "can revamp her government" and put together a strong legislative-executive partnership with local government units, leaders of civil society, police, military and judiciary, De Venecia said.

All-encompassing vision

"This will be part of an all-encompassing vision for the nation. And FVR (Ramos) strongly supports this strong vision," De Venecia said.

The Speaker has been at odds with the President after his son Joey de Venecia III accused First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of intervening in the NBN deal to favor the ZTE Corp. of China.

De Venecia III lost an unsolicited bid to undertake the project aimed at digitally wiring the entire bureaucracy down to the remote barangays. His ensuing exposé that the China deal was overpriced and laced with kickbacks torpedoed the project.

The triumvirate of Ms Arroyo, Ramos and De Venecia had succeeded in foiling successive attempts to bring down her scandal-wracked administration, which assumed power following the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

While De Venecia is the president of the ruling party Lakas-CMD, Ms Arroyo serves as chair, and Ramos chair emeritus.

The alliance nearly collapsed on Oct. 11, when 189 congressmen, and later 48 governors, trooped to Malacañang upon the behest of the President to tackle the burgeoning political crisis brought about by the ZTE fiasco.

Impeachment moves

Some of those who attended the affair claimed that cash gifts were handed out amid the latest impeachment drive against Ms Arroyo.

De Venecia told the INQUIRER that he had been reluctant to attend yesterday's hastily convened meeting.

"We can't achieve anything by talking in front of everyone. Both of us must talk as leaders of the nation whose goal should be the higher interest of the nation," he said.

But he changed heart, arriving about two hours late after receiving reports that some of the rabid pro-Arroyo congressmen were discussing ways to oust him as Speaker over his adamant stance against transmitting the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo to the House committee on justice.

De Venecia has said that the impeachment complaint lodged by lawyer Roel Pulido was a "weak" case whose actual target was him and his son. He admitted later on that the congressmen "pressured" him to allow the transmittal of the complaint to "immunize the President" from another such complaint for one year.

Besides the top leaders, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon also attended the NSC meeting.

Senate President Manuel Villar sent in his stead Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan.

After the NSC meeting, Ms Arroyo convened the National Economic and Development Authority and National Antipoverty Commission to hasten the implementation of the program to award two million hectares to landless farmers. The meeting also allowed the Department of Labor and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to report on measures taken to mitigate the effects of a strong peso on remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

Suggestions welcome

Acting Executive Secretary Ignacio Bunye said De Venecia had written a letter to the President outlining suggestions to improve governance. He said he had yet to read the letter.

"But in general, we can say that we welcome the suggestions of this nature in the constructive spirit that they are given. I would like to take note of the statement that he made that he supports the President, and that he would not be in the Palace if he were not supportive of the President," Bunye said.

He refused to comment on De Venecia's use of the world "lame duck" to describe Ms Arroyo.

"I'd rather not comment on specifics of a letter that I have not actually read. I go by general impression of those who attend the NSC meeting that the principal players continued to enjoy their cordial relationship," Bunye added.

He said that Ms Arroyo "really knows what needs to be done, but the President can also use a lot of help from all the stakeholders."

Economic revolution

De Venecia asked Ms Arroyo to "craft a moral vision for country and the strengthening of the economic revolution."

"So we need consolidated vision in the economic area, social reform political area and in battle against corruption," he said.

The letter is a "joint statement for the nation" containing the recommendations from eminent persons, academe, religious groups, students, among others, "on the vision for the country, how to move the Philippines to first world status."

Asked about Ms Arroyo's receptiveness to his suggestions, he said: "I believe she's very constructive and I think she's taking a lead here. She has launched her own reforms and some are working."

The recommendations will be presented to the people, ruling party, coalition partners, for approval.

'We're friends'

"We're friends. I wouldn't be here if we're not friends. She's President for all (our) people," he said, but stressed that he also "supports" his son Joey.

"My son is pushing for reforms and I'm pushing for reforms, and President Arroyo is pushing for (reforms), so there's no conflict. We have many points of convergence," he added. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

President sued over NBN deal

From page A1

later following allegations of bribery.

The contract was signed by Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong in Boao, China, in ceremonies witnessed by Ms Arroyo.

The President scrapped the deal on Oct. 2 while the Senate was investigating allegations that the NBN deal was marred by offers of bribery.

The Senate probe will resume tomorrow with the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri, columnist Jarius Bondoc, Mendoza and his Assistant Secretary Elmer A. Soneja invited as guests.

Under the Constitution, the President is guaranteed immunity from any suit. But Guingona and leaders of civil society groups, who joined him in filing the complaint in the Office of the Ombudsman, said that it was time to discard such "colonial jurisprudential legacy."

"Immunity must give way to responsibility, in keeping with the constitutional principle that 'a public office is a public trust,'" said Guingona, who appeared with lawyer Harry Roque at the Office of the Ombudsman in Quezon City yesterday.

Culture of impunity

Even the US Supreme Court has deviated from the old notion of presidential immunity when it allowed a suit for damages against then US President Bill Clinton in the Paula Jones case, Guingona pointed out.

"Today, a culture of impunity in government reigns—extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances ... graft and corruption. What has the President done to solve this problem?" he said.

"Instead, as in this case, we find the President herself abetting and allowing the commission of a crime involving a member of her own Cabinet in the anomalous ZTE broadband deal," he said.

Neri, Abalos

Included in the complaint were Jose Miguel Arroyo, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Neri and resigned Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

By allegedly doing nothing despite Neri's report on the purported P200-million bribe offered by Abalos, Ms Arroyo was accused of tolerating the commission of the crime.

"She knew about the bribe offer. She knew about the onerous nature of the proposal. She knew that there were better offers than that of ZTE ... Yet in evident bad faith, or at least, gross inexcusable negligence, she presided over the signing of a deal," the complaint said.

The complaint said the President's husband should be held accountable for violating the antigraft law for threatening and coercing Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, son of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., into withdrawing from the NBN project.

As the spouse of the highest official of the land, Jose Miguel Arroyo is also prohibited by law to intervene, directly or indirectly, in any business contract with the government, according to the complaint.

Indirect bribery

Abalos is being accused of indirect bribery for allegedly offering Neri bribe money early this year in exchange for his endorsement of the ZTE project proposal.

Abalos is also accused of graft for supposedly receiving perks and privileges from ZTE in connection with its proposal to undertake the NBN project.

Guingona and his group are holding Neri accountable for violating Article 208 of the Revised Penal Code, which penalizes public officers who maliciously refrain from instituting prosecution for the punishment of offenders.

"He attempted to conceal the criminal acts of other government officials involved in the controversy, maliciously and deliberately using executive privilege during the joint hearings at the Senate to do so," the complaint read.

The offers of bribery and the threat made by the President's husband were disclosed at the Senate hearings on the NBN deal in September.

Since August, four separate complaints have been filed in the antigraft body against government officials linked to the NBN project, which sought to link national agencies and local government units through a high-capacity telecommunications network.

The latest complaint was also supported by several "concerned citizens"—Dominga Padilla, Roel Garcia, Fr. Jose Dizon and Renato Reyes.

Doctor's advice

On the advice of his doctors, Ms Arroyo's husband will not appear in tomorrow's resumption of the Senate probe of the ZTE deal.

"I have conferred with my doctors and they have unfortunately prohibited me from exposing myself to any form of stress. Given the high risk of my attending, I am therefore compelled to respectfully decline your invitation," Jose Miguel Arroyo said in a letter to the Senate.

Arroyo underwent open heart surgery in April after he suffered a life-threatening dissecting aortic aneurysm, a tear in his aorta, the largest blood vessel in the body.

He enclosed a copy of the medical certificate to his letter but the blue ribbon staff refused to release this to media citing client-doctor confidentiality.

Back off

At the first hearing on the ZTE deal on Sept. 18, De Venecia III claimed that Arroyo had told him to "back off" from the NBN project.

The President's husband has denied bullying De Venecia, whose firm, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., had submitted an unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN contract on a BOT scheme.

De Venecia also accused Abalos, then Commission on Elections chair, of brokering for ZTE and of offering him $10 million in December 2006 in exchange for AHI's withdrawal of its proposal.

At the third Senate hearing on Sept. 26, Neri accused Abalos of offering him P200 million early this year.

As of late afternoon yesterday, the blue ribbon committee staff said that only De Venecia confirmed his attendance at the hearing tomorrow.

Momentum killed

Cayetano had been criticized by certain senators, particularly Sen. Jamby Madrigal, for stonewalling the ZTE-NBN probe when he reluctantly scheduled hearings over the last four weeks, practically killing the momentum generated by the explosive testimonies at the previous hearings.

Madrigal also chided Cayetano for holding during the Senate break a hearing behind closed doors and without the presence of any senator. De Venecia testified at the hearing conducted by the blue ribbon committee's technical working group.

Madrigal moved that the session be nullified.

In a letter to Cayetano, Madrigal also said that she would move to cite in contempt Malacañang executives who would invoke executive privilege "to negate proceedings of the legislative inquiry" at tomorrow's hearing.

RP workers warned on China jobs

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFfairs yesterday warned against the recruitment of domestic helpers/nannies for mainland China by illegal recruiters in the Philippines and China for a fee of more than P100,000.

Citing a report of the Philippine embassy in Beijing, the DFA said the recruiters promised nonexistent jobs in China to the unwitting victims.

Philippine Ambassador to Beijing Sonia Cataumber Brady explained that foreign nationals were not allowed to hold jobs as housekeepers, domestic helpers, or nannies in mainland China.

"Illegal recruiters continue to victimize Filipinos, which has resulted in the increasing number of our countrymen coming and staying in China with inappropriate documentation," Brady said.

"Filipinos who are promised jobs as domestic helpers in China are always in danger of being arrested because foreign nationals are not allowed to work as domestic helpers in China," she stressed.

According to Brady, the victims usually paid up to P100,000 each for their plane tickets and tourist visas which would enable them to work as domestic helpers in China.

Once in China, many of the victims have resorted to using visa agents in order to extend the validity of their visas. With irregular jobs, some of these victims were unable to reclaim their passports because they do not have the money to pay for the agents' services of up to 4,000 yuan or about P24,000.

Brady said that an inspection conducted in June 2007 by the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau in Maquanying, an area in Beijing where a number of Filipinos live, had resulted in the arrest of two Filipinos because they could not show to authorities a legal permit to work, as their passports were in the hands of visa agents.

During the arrest, Chinese authorities confiscated a total of 17 Philippine passports with suspicious visas.

"As a result, our *kababayans* may be deported for staying and working illegally in China," Brady said.

The embassy has been informed by Chinese officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Public Security Bureau that domestic service employment in China was closed to foreigners. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Kidney patients to get big break

KIDNEY PATIENTS MAY NOT HAVE TO wait very long to get new kidneys once the Department of Health (DOH) drafts its new set of guidelines to regulate the practice.

The DOH is currently working on the implementing guidelines to its revised administrative order to regulate kidney transplantation in the country, in a bid to cut down long transplant queues.

Health Undersecretary Alexander Padilla said that while there are many Filipinos with kidney problems in need of new ones, the transplant queues take forever to move up.

The long waiting time to get new kidneys, he said, is not only because there is a long list but also because the system has a wrong prioritization of patients.

The DOH has conducted its first public hearing last Friday to present the draft of the revised order. *Beverly T. Natividad*

Educators review new curriculum

TEACHERS AND educators all over the country are in the process of reviewing the new teacher education curriculum at Grand Regal Hotel in Lanang, Davao City.

The convention, which was keynoted yesterday by PRC Commissioner Nilo Rosas and Australian Education Director Dr. Ian D'Arcy Walsh, ends tomorrow.

It is hosted by the Philippine Association for Teacher Education (Pafte) as part of its 36th Annual Assembly, which also includes a study tour to Australia on Oct. 26-31.

Selected presenters will share experiences and best practices in the application of the innovative experiential learning course, which is envisioned to unify preservice education and the teacher profession.

Pafte national president Paz I. Lucido, who is also dean of the Centro Escolar University School of Education, Liberal Arts, Music and Social Work, said Pafte has set new benchmarks in teacher education and this convention is expected to further strengthen the preservice preparation of Filipino teachers.

Registration fees for the live-in rate is P6,750.

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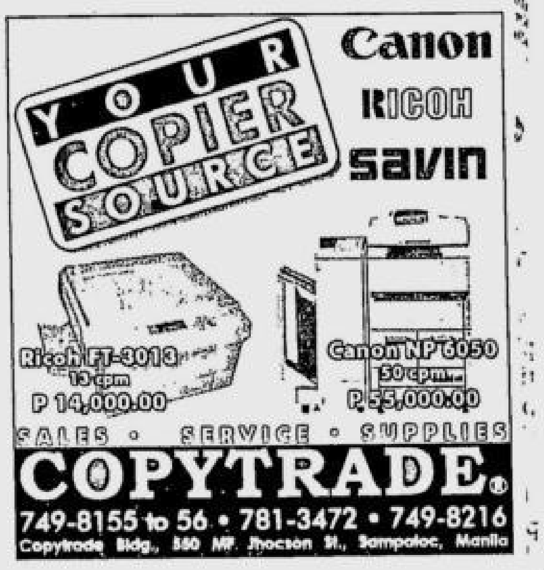
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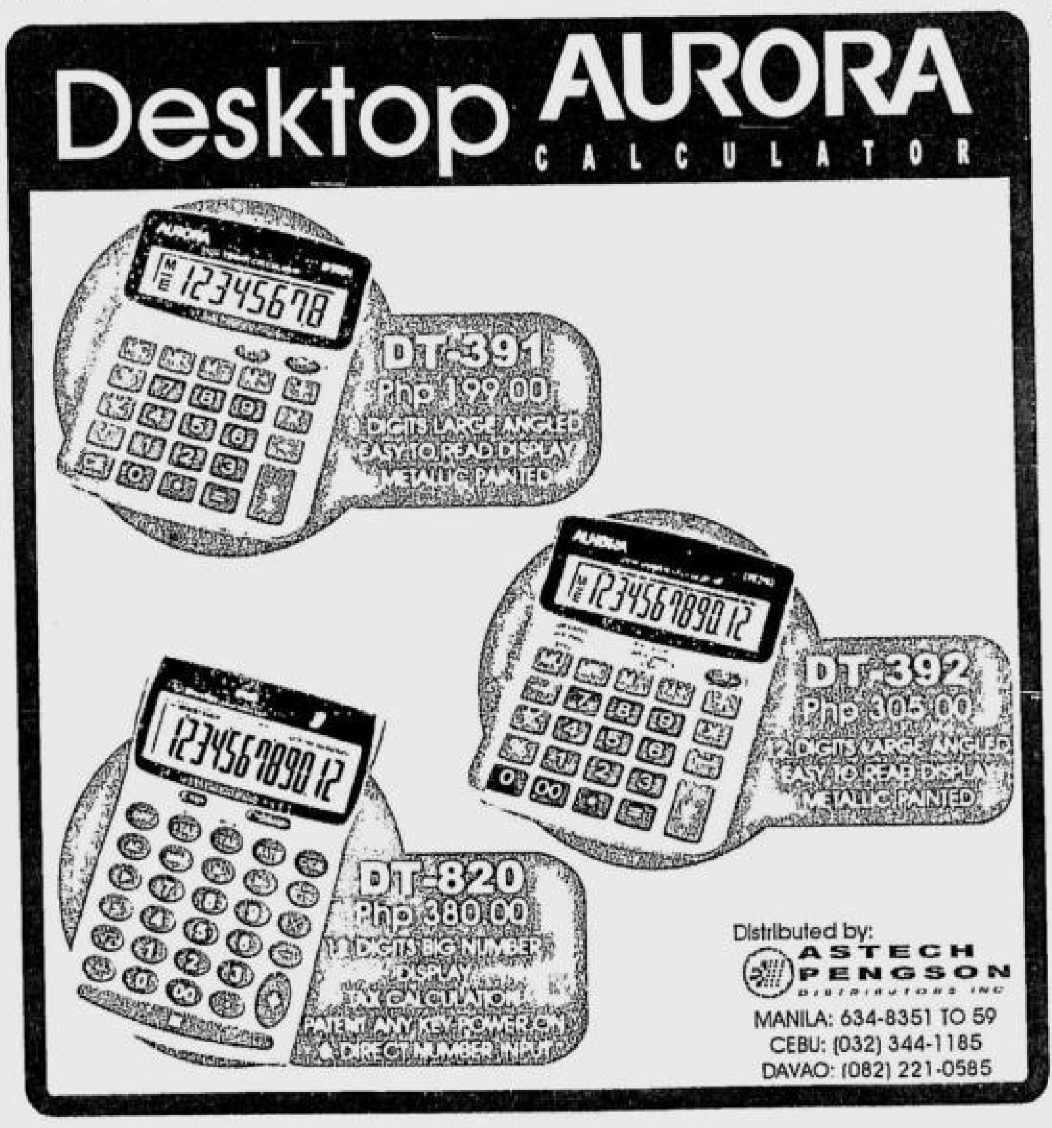
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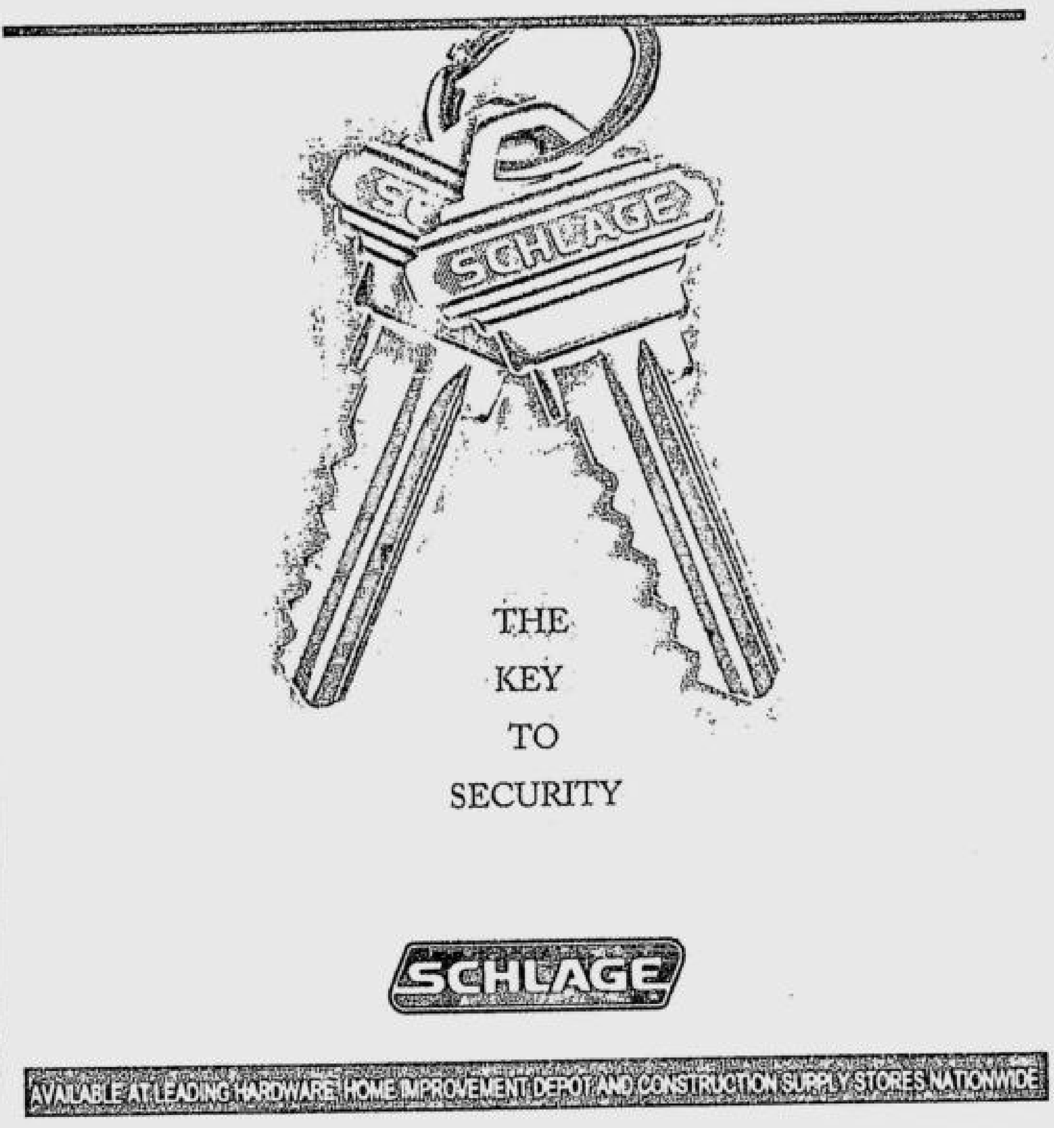
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Ex-Bulacan gov talks of room where money flowed

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

FORMER BULACAN GOV. JOSEFINA DE la Cruz yesterday said the room in Malacañang where her brother, Gov. Joselito Mendoza, was handed two gift bags containing P500,000 each on Oct. 11 was the same room where the Kampi and Lakas-CMD parties gave out campaign funds in 2004 and 2007.

"*Pag may tulong sa amin, dun sa kuwarto na yun kami tinatawag, isa-isa, hindi sabay. Dun nagbibigay ng tulong* (Whenever we were given help, it was in that room where we were called, one by one, not in groups. That was where the funds were released)," De la Cruz said of the room on the Palace's first floor, beside the Heroes Hall.

She said funds were distributed "in relation to political exercises and for party matters."

De la Cruz said she received "party funds" in the May 2004 national and local elections as the provincial leader of Lakas-CMD in Bulacan, and in the May 2007 local polls as a leader of Kampi (Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino).

Asked who, in particular, ordered the release of party funds in those instances, she said: "*Si Ma'am* (It's Ma'am)."

She said she was referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I'm familiar with that room," De la Cruz said.

Asked how much money she received for the elections then, she said: "*Medyo malaki* (Quite big) because Bulacan is a big province."

Pressed for the amounts, De la Cruz said these were in the range of P500,000.

These, in turn, went to support the campaign activities of local candidates, she said.

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After denials, local officia

From page A1

P500,000 cash "gifts" given to Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio and Bulacan Gov. Josellito Mendoza.

Trying to defend Malacañang from allegations that it was behind the cash handouts, LPP spokesperson Gov. Joel Reyes of Palawan and LPP secretary general Gov. Ben Evardone of Eastern Samar claimed the money given to Panlilio and Mendoza came from their organization's coffers.

Panlilio's and Mendoza's disclosures that they received the bags of money sparked a major controversy following allegations that the money was intended to buy the loyalty of politicians amid opposition threats to seek anew the impeachment of Ms Arroyo.

Evardone and Reyes came out a day after Mendoza linked Evardone to the money-distribution incident, saying it was Evardone who told him he would receive "something for community projects" before he was actually handed the bags of money.

The disclosures that money flowed at Malacañang on that day sparked calls even from leaders of the Roman Catholic Church for Ms Arroyo to resign.

The money was part of LPP's "Capability Building Project" (CBP) funds, the two LPP leaders averred.

If Panlilio and Mendoza were unhappy about receiving the money, they could return it to the LPP, the officials said.

"The source of funds came from the League of Provinces," Reyes said after a three-hour meeting of the LPP national executive board in Ortigas Center.

"We have a capability building program for newly elected governors," he said.

Reyes said it was customary for the group to provide funds to its members, particularly to newly elected officials. He said they had another "round" of cash gifts for their members.

Reyes claimed the funds came from LPP members' contributions, but he did not specify if some came from the governors' own pockets or from provincial government coffers.

To date, the funds for the CBP stand at P21 million, he added.

The LPP receipts for such gifts "usually follows," Reyes went on.

Evardone said the governors were expected to sign receipts from the mail and send fund utilization reports to the LPP.

The LPP officials refused to apologize for the money distribution and blamed their secretariat for handing out the money right in Malacañang.

"There is really no need to apologize. What I can say is that it was the wrong place and the wrong venue," Reyes said.

A 'miscommunication'

Evardone said it was unfortunate that the Palace was dragged into the issue, which was a result of a "miscommunication."

Evardone confirmed talking to Mendoza, but insisted there was nothing wrong with giving out the money to the two governors.

He said the LPP leadership had nothing to explain to the governors, noting that "our intentions were noble."

Reyes said in Filipino: "We are calling on Governor Panlilio and Governor Mendoza that if they do not

funds, they can return the mon

League of Provinces."

Evardone chimed in: "If the

want to use it for capability bu

their constituents, there are ma

governors in need of money."

Evardone, former spokespers

administration Team Unity, s

ticket, urged the Presidential A

Commission to call off its inve

into the cash gift scandal.

He said the governors were r

PAGC's jurisdiction as they wer

pointed officials.

Besides naming Evardone, G

Mendoza also said he saw P

Amusement and Gaming Co

president Edward Plaza in the

Malacañang where the bags o

Mendoza account of

BULACAN GOV. JOSELITO MENDOZA gave the following account of how he ended up with two paper bags of money during a meeting in Malacañang.

Mendoza said that Gov. Ben Evardone, secretary general of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. vice president Eddie Plaza were also in the Palace at the time.

- **Oct 11:** Governors and mayors gather at the Heroes Hall at 11 a.m. for the induction of Ulap officers. Lunch follows.
- **12:30 p.m.:** An announcement is made that governors should go to the Guest House. Forty-two governors proceed to the Guest House.
- **12:45 p.m.:** LPP meeting begins. The issue is the assumption of Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico Jr. as president of Ulap. Mendoza sits on last row.

An LPP staffer approaches him and whispers: "Gov, *kaibigan nyo po ba si Father Ed* (Are you a friend of Father Ed)?" Mendoza replies, "*Oo, bakit* (Yes, why)?"

The staffer says: "*Pinatatanong po ni Governor Evardone.* (Governor Evardone wants to know)."

Mendoza stands up and appr

Evardone, who is just near him.

Evardone says: "*May ibibigay*

will be given something) for cor

ty projects."

'Will you take it'

Mendoza returns to his seat a

turns to Pampanga Gov. Eddie P

to tell him about the "help."

Panlilio asks: "*Ikaw Jonjon, tatar*

mo ba? (You, Jonjon, will you take

Mendoza throws the questio

to Panlilio, who replies: "*Walan*

masama kung para sa projects (I

wrong if it's for the projects)."

Pagcor's Plaza also around

Mendoza flashes an OK sign

hand to tell Evardone that Panli

agrees.

At this point, somebody anno

that Ms Arroyo is arriving at th

Mendoza returns to his seat a

back row. The meeting ends at 4

Mendoza and Panlilio try to t

Ms Arroyo about the matter of a

ments of police chiefs in their provinces.

Mendoza sees Plaza, former A

del Sur governor, in the room.

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[Plaza heads Pagcor's People's Government Mobile Action Department (PGMAD), which provides basic services, such as free medical and dental treatment, to people in the provinces and in depressed urban areas.]

Meeting GMA

Ms Arroyo shakes hands with them and tells the two governors to write her their requests.

That done, Mendoza goes out. As he walks away, an LPP staffer calls him and ushers him into a room.

There, he sees Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero and Plaza, who is talking to a man Mendoza does not know.

Plaza tells a woman in white: *"Si Governor Panlilio?"*

Bags of money

The woman hands Mendoza two paper bags. He accepts the bags and goes to Panadero to talk about his request to replace Police Director Asher Dolina.

Walking out, Mendoza sees Panlilio, who introduces him to his chief of staff, Archie Reyes.

Mendoza hands one of the bags to Reyes. ***With a report from Leila B. Salaverria***

were distributed.

Pagcor spokesperson Dodie King yesterday said the gaming firm was not involved in the monetary handouts.

"All our funds are edited by the COA (Commission on Audit). We were not involved in the release of funds to them," King said.

He said Plaza was at a meeting in Malacañang in his private capacity.

Put issue to rest

Evardone called on his colleagues who might have accepted the money "to put this issue to rest" by returning it to the LPP.

In an interview, Evardone denied Mendoza's statement that he was around when the bags of money for Mendoza and Panlilio, each containing P500,000, were handed out in Malacañang.

"If you recall, I was at the Malacañang Press Corps Office at the time. When I returned to the main Palace, everyone has left," said Evardone.

Evardone said there were several meetings that occurred in Malacañang on Oct. 11—the President's meeting with congressmen, the oath-taking of officers of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) and the separate meeting of the LPP.

He said that since two governors had claimed "to have received some sort of financial assistance .... they are now raising questions with regard to the propriety of such aid to their local governments."

Evardone's recollections

"I wish to clarify that I never mentioned anything to Governor Mendoza about any financial assistance for the upcoming barangay elections that was supposed to be given to us governors during a separate LPP meeting at the Palace," he said.

Evardone recalled asking Mendoza during that LPP meeting whether "he or Governor Panlilio were working on, or already had in the pipeline, various barangay projects for their respective constituencies."

As secretary general of the LPP, Evardone said it was his duty to "assist my fellow governors with whatever help I can to improve public governance in their provinces," including briefing them on possible funding sources for their projects from official or private sources here and abroad.

"I have chosen to extend such help to my two peers because they are both neophyte governors who have had either minimal or no experience at all in public administration," he said.

'Peace of mind'

Evardone added: "For the peace of mind of Governors Jonjon Mendoza of Bulacan and Ed Panlilio of Pampanga, I believe the most appropriate way for them to put this issue to rest is to turn over the money to the League of Provinces of the Philippines."

He said "this noble gesture on their part will ... hopefully put an end to the unfair and baseless conjectures concerning its members amid media reports about the supposed wholesale distribution of cash gifts to governors and other elective officials ... at Malacañang."

Amid calls for an independent investigation into the alleged "payoffs" to congressmen and governors, Ms Arroyo yesterday ordered the PAGC to give way to the investigation being separately conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Ms Arroyo said her directive "was based on the possibility that PAGC's effort might lead to a waste of time and resources because it does not have jurisdiction over elected officials, such as congressmen and local government executives." ***With a report from Leila B. Salaverria***

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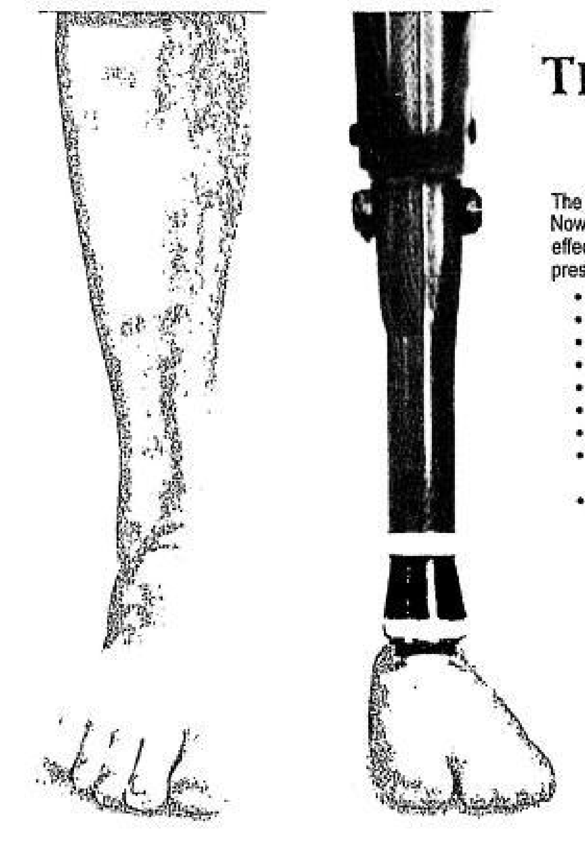

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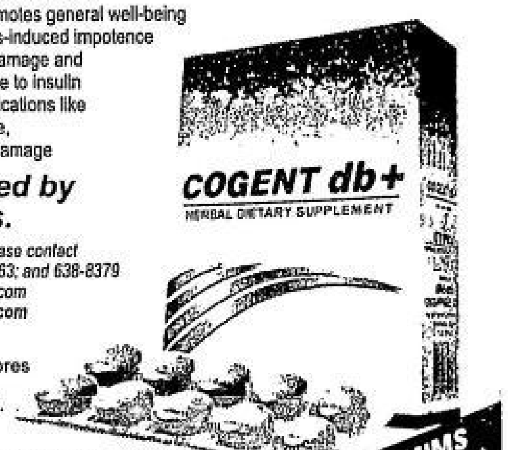

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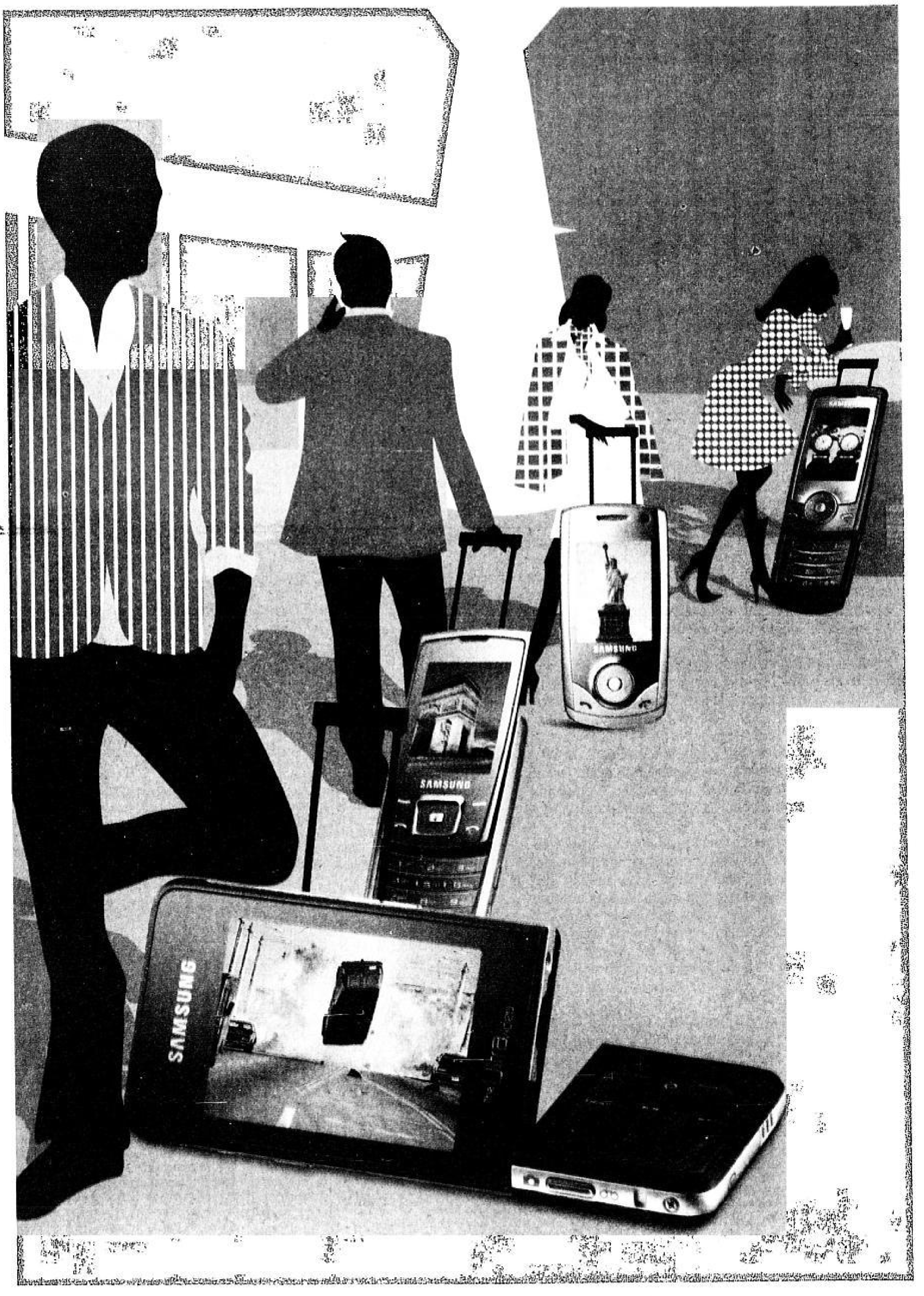

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The same

EDITORIAL

WHEN JOSEPH ESTRADA INSTRUCTED HIS lawyers to ask for a presidential pardon, all his pious preaching of the need for "reconciliation" can't disguise the fact that it was a surrender. A tactical one, to be sure, springing from two desires: to be a free man, and, being a politician, to open up the possibility of a comeback, and thus, continued political relevance.

When President Macapagal-Arroyo responded to the request with "elation," she also proved that her instincts are primarily and crudely political, which is to say that justice must always take a back seat to securing political advantage. Birds of a feather flock together.

There is only one word to describe the actions of the former president and his successor: humbug. Estrada would not defend his office except with posturing; and then he tried to save his hide by inflaming the passions of his supporters to assault Malacañang. All his protestations of innocence were merely intended to rally the faithful. Yet when faced with the prospect of serving a long sentence after his conviction by the Sandiganbayan, he decided to abandon the fight, and once again save himself.

The President, on the other hand, undoubtedly relishes the sight of her foe kneeling and begging for mercy, though of course the ones doing the kneeling are his lawyers. She can gleefully extract cheap political mileage since that has been her attitude toward everything, anyway. It doesn't matter how it's achieved, so long as political advantage, however short term, can be obtained. She can proclaim a closure to the divisions born of the events of 2001, however patently false the claim is.

Politics being the art of compromise, Estrada can obtain what he desires most—freedom without real accountability—while the President can say she gave everything Estrada wanted while perhaps allowing the government to utilize the assets ordered forfeited and which the disgraced former president claims were never his at all. Then everyone can laugh all the way to the bank, leaving the public holding the bag.

What the two sides overlook is that their mutual interest in reaching a political accommodation only serves to starkly set them apart from the rest of society. They've now shown that they have more in common with each other than with their respective constituencies. Both Estrada and Ms Arroyo are convinced that their supporters will swallow any betrayal from their principals in pursuit of political advantage. And that the public at large will simply blink at the brazenness of the whole thing and move on.

We doubt that this will be the case. To be sure, the fanatical supporters of both will cling to their leaders, however obvious the betrayal. But both will find their core support diminished by this accommodation. In assuming that they have everything and everyone figured out, both sides may ironically facilitate a resolution to the political crisis dating back to 2005.

Opposition to the President has been hampered by veterans of Edsa 1 and 2 being uneasy with Estrada loyalists. The President has adeptly turned this into an advantage, reminding her loyalists that her political survival represents a continuing vindication of People Power. The result is a stalemate where no one can summon People Power, because, as the administration loves to point out, "*pare-pareho lang sila,*" and if that is the case, better the marginally more competent Arroyo to the out-and-out incompetent Estrada.

In recent months, though, the President has shown herself even cruder, and in a way, more crass, than Estrada, the lazy, womanizing, booze-drinker who at least did things behind closed doors. In contrast, she saw nothing wrong with serving up buffets of cash, complete with, literally, doggie bags of funds for her pets in the legislature and local governments. And now, the fun-loving former president and the brazen incumbent are both willing to come together, on the gambler's assumption that their mutual political luck will hold.

The lesson Filipinos have learned is that both leaders have more in common with each other and both have more that sets them apart from a public that is as angry at Arroyo's cash bar as it was over Estrada's karaoke governance. In other words, after two years of agonizing over who was the lesser evil, the public can breathe easy, seeing how both are two sides of the same debased coin. It is People of the Philippines now versus Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Joseph Ejercito Estrada.

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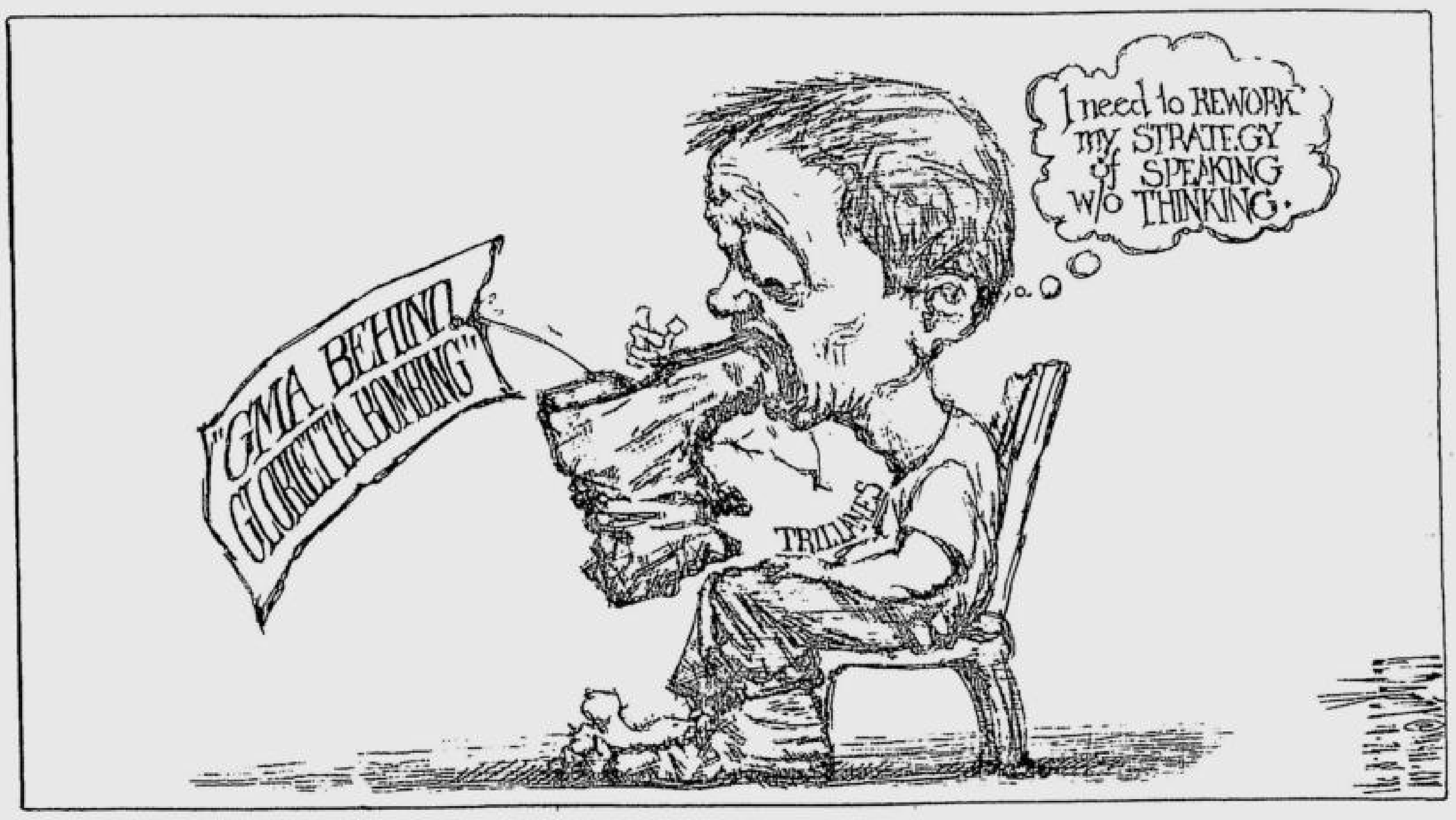
I need to REWORK my STRATEGY of SPEAKING w/o THINKING.
"GMA BEHIND GLORIETTA BOMBING"
TRILLANES

Glorietta bombing a mistake, not an accident

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"IT WAS A MISTAKE, NOT AN ACCIDENT," said Larry Intel of L.I. Air Services Inc. (or L.I. Airs Inc. for short), the newest propaganda troubleshooter hired by Malacañang.

"What is a mistake?" I asked.

"The Glorietta mall bombing," he replied. "It was not an accident."

"The police said it could be an accident caused by the fumes from an LPG cylinder or methane from a leaking septic tank."

"Septic tank, maybe, because it's nothing but bull___!" he exclaimed.

"What do you mean?"

"If it were leaking gas, there should have been a fire after the blast. But there was none."

"What was it then?"

"A bomb! Probers found traces of a C4 bomb. FBI experts confirmed that the bomb design was similar to those used by US Special Forces."

"The US bombed Glorietta? Those dirty Yanks!"

"I didn't say that."

"What did you say?"

"I mean the bomb could have come from the US, but I didn't say the US planted it."

"Terrorists planted it then."

"I didn't say that either."

"Who did then?"

"If it was a C4, who do you think has that?"

"Only the military."

"Correct."

"The AFP bombed Glorietta? I don't believe it."

"I believe it, but they don't want the public to believe that."

"Why?"

"Who do you think could have ordered the AFP to do that?"

"Esperon?"

"No."

"Teodoro?"

"No."

"Gonzales?"

"Still no."

"I give up. Who could have ordered it?"

"Who else but the commander in chief."

"Yes, that's right. Only one person could have given the order to the AFP and be obeyed. And she has a good reason for wanting a big bomb blast in Makati: to divert attention away from the bribery in Malacañang."

"Bright boy. That is why it should not be traced to the AFP. And that is why they are saying that it was an accident."

"Why not blame the terrorists?"

"Because terrorism will scare away foreign investors."

"But it's hard to believe that it was an accident."

"Well, come to think of it, it was technically an accident. It was a mistake."

"A mistake? What do you mean?"

"First, it was a mistake hiring a partially deaf bomber to plant the bomb."

"A veteran bomber will really be deaf because of all the blasts he has gone through. But what does it have to do with the Glorietta bombing?"

"He was paid to 'bomb Gloria.' But he misheard it as Glorietta."

"Oh, so he bombed Glorietta instead. All the police has to do now is look for a deaf suspect. But why would the AFP order Gloria bombed?"

"I didn't say that."

"You're confusing me. Who ordered Gloria bombed?"

"Who else but the opposition."

"Why are you accusing the opposition?"

"Who else would benefit?"

"Noli de Castro!"

"Well, briefly yes. But how long do you think Noli would last with the opposition around?"

"Not long."

"That's what I'm coming to," Larry said in triumph. "The Glorietta bombing should be blamed on the opposition. They are the villains here."

"I see it now," I said. "You're doing your job as propaganda troubleshooter of Malacañang."

"The death of those 11 killed in the bombing and the injuries to the 119 others should be blamed on the opposition, those dirty bastards!"

"Don't be so hasty in accusing people. Your accusation may boomerang on Noli. He is Gloria's successor. He will benefit the most."

"Noli? He won't harm a fly. As Lady Macbeth said, 'He is too full of the milk of human kindness,'" Larry sniffed, quoting Shakespeare.

"But will he make a good president?"

"Did we ever have a good president?"

"Isn't GMA a good president for you?"

"You got me there," Larry mused. "But isn't she so kindhearted, giving P10,000 each to the families of those killed in the bombing and P5,000 each to those injured?"

"After giving from P200,000 to P500,000 to 190 congressmen who are already rich from what they are getting from the taxpayers? What a contrast!"

"Well, it does look like my President's values are all skewed," Larry conceded. "But maybe there's no more money because the congressmen already got them all."

"There's one thing the victims' families wanted," I said.

"And isn't it grand that GMA offered a job to the mother of one of the victims, Ceasar Niño Vidamo, and a scholarship to one of her sons?"

"Did you read in the INQUIRER what Niño's mother said?"

"No, I don't read that rag. Nobody in Malacañang does. What did she say?"

"She said she wanted to hear from the President that she would go after the perpetrators and bring them to justice. 'My son just died of a bomb explosion,' Mrs. Vidamo had lamented, 'but all she could tell me was a promise of a job and a scholarship for my other son.'"

Larry was speechless. "Well," Larry finally said, "Malacañang is used to giving out envelopes."

"Remember," I said, "those killed and maimed in the Glorietta bombing are innocent victims while the congressmen are not innocent at all."

"I never said they were," he said. "But congressmen can help her weather any impeachment complaint. Those bombing victims can't."

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: There will be no Kapihan sa Manila forum and Plaridel lunch on Monday, Oct. 29, to give everybody a chance to vote in the barangay and Samahang Kabataan elections. Both will be resumed on Nov. 5.

Again, snap elections

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ANTONIO TRILLANES—SENATOR TO YOU and me—has a petition. That petition calls for a snap election to resolve today's political and moral impasse and allow the country to truly move on. I saw it last Monday and I had no problem affixing my signature to it.

The reason for that is simply that I myself have been calling for snap elections for years now. I called for it shortly after the "Hello Garci" tape surfaced, saying that if our problem was that we did not have a real president, then the solution was to have one, which could only happen with snap elections. I called for it when the congressmen, led by Jose de Venecia before adversity caused him to experience a change of heart, such as he is rumored to have one, were busy killing the impeachment bids. I asked why our congressmen should hold the national interest hostage to their greed and we felt powerless to do anything about it.

I called for it when De Venecia was trying to ram Charter change down our throats while citing the many virtues of parliamentary rule like the devil quoting Scripture to suit his purposes. I said merely opposing Charter change was being purely defensive, the point was not to change the Charter but the Usurper—the Charter was genuine, the Usurper was fake.

I called for it when everyone was debating the virtues and vices of a military coup, however it was called, withdrawal or strike. I said there was already a coup regime in place, one wrought by ballot rather than by bullet, the point was still snap election to render the illegitimate legitimate.

The objections to my proposal were: one, it would present no end of legal tangles; and, two, the question of "succession" should be debated only after GMA was gone. The point was how she might be made to go.

The first by no means presents an insurmountable problem. It's not only that in this country where there's a will there's a way—and correspondingly, as shown by Congress and impeachment, where there's no will there's no way—it's also that in this country where there's a way there's a will. Nothing shows that better than GMA. The fact that Erap was an elected president, and the most popularly elected president at that, did not pose a problem to the Supreme Court when he was ousted by People Power. And rightly so: The law is nothing more or less than the expression of the people's will. Where that will is manifested directly and clearly, it overrules the statutes written in parchment. Where a universal, or a near-universal, demand for a snap election is made by the people, it becomes law. Or more to the point, it commands a law to come forth in support of it. Chief Justice Hilario Davide had no problem finding one to proclaim GMA Erap's successor.

The second objection merely shows lack of imagination. A snap election is not something you should think about only after you have formulated a strategy to oust a usurper, it should be the very core of your strategy to oust a usurper. True enough, a snap election can happen only after a usurper is ousted, but the call for a snap election can, and should, happen to oust a usurper. If it is a popular call, and there is no reason why it shouldn't be if made the object of a campaign, complete with the call for civil disobedience if left unheeded, then it becomes the very instrument to pry loose the fingers of someone clinging unlawfully, unreasonably, indeed madly, to the throne. Snap elections are not an afterthought, they are an aforethought.

It is superior in every respect to any other strategy to free this country. At the very least, it goes to the heart of the problem, which is legitimacy. All other things are derivative. Even the killings: You are illegitimate, you will use coercion to keep power, including slaughtering the innocents. Even the corruption: You think nothing of stealing the vote, you will think nothing of stealing the tax. You cheat in elections—and you can't have a more monumental case of it than "Hello Garci"—you void your claim to any position, whatever the tally shows. Hell, you void your claim to freedom. You have not earned a berth in Malacañang, you have earned a cot in Muntinlupa.

At the very most, it should put to rest a seemingly formidable question but which is really the easiest thing to answer. That question is: What is your alternative to GMA? Or, who do you want to be there instead of GMA? My answer is simple: My alternative to GMA is the one the voters vote for. The one I want there instead of GMA is the one the voters vote for.

The question, "Who do you want in place of GMA?" is not a thorny one, it is an idiotic one. Or have we forgotten that we are supposed to be a democracy? If the problem is that GMA is a fake president, then the solution is to have a genuine president. It's the other strategies that are secondary or derivative. Whether the path to make GMA go away is people power, civil disobedience, a military strike, to annoy her with text jokes, or all of the above, each one will still have to reckon with elections. Or else the successor will be an illegitimate one as well.

While at this, it also solves the problem of who that successor will be, or should be. It can neither be Noli de Castro nor Reynato Puno, other than in a (very) brief capacity as overseer of snap elections. GMA succeeded Erap constitutionally because the presidency was vacated by an act of People Power, De Castro cannot succeed GMA constitutionally because the presidency has not been occupied since May 2004 by an act of Hello Kitty. However long and winding the procession is, as a local saying goes, it still ends up in church. However varied and tortuous the strategizing goes, it still ends up in one thing:

Snap elections.

Two events pushing gov't to a precipice?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

FOLLOWING THE GRENADE BOMBING AT PLAZA Miranda on Aug. 21, 1971, The Manila Chronicle started a running tally, on the right ear of the front page, on the number of days that had lapsed since the massacre, without arrests having been made. The figure rose with each passing day.

The count ended 13 months after the bombing, on Sept. 21, 1972, when President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law and padlocked the newspapers. The tally was overtaken by events. By the time of the closure of the newspapers, the Filipino people had no clear picture of who was responsible for the gruesome carnage, with Marcos blaming the communists and his Liberal party opponents blaming it on him.

What is now clear, 36 years after the vile deed, is this: The bombing ignited a chain of events that accelerated the plunge toward martial law. Momentous events that shaped a country's history have invariably been provoked by a triggering event pushing the nation to what we fashionably call the "tipping point."

We are today precariously perched on a ticking time bomb, whose fuse has been lighted by the two events during the past few weeks—one, the distribution of P120 million in cash gifts to 190 congressmen and 48 provincial governors at Malacañang Palace on Oct. 11; and two, the explosion at the Glorietta shopping mall on "Black Friday," Oct. 19. This is not to suggest we are moving toward another Plaza Miranda scenario. The direction of the two events is unclear, and could lead to a different type of civil upheaval. Public patience is clearly wearing thin over the payoff scandal.

The two events are unrelated but they have unleashed a groundswell of public demand to know who are responsible for the mass "cash gifts" at the Palace and the violence at Glorietta which has claimed at least 11 lives. Without understating the impact of the horrible carnage at the shopping mall, the blast has temporarily shifted public attention from the cash payoffs, involving a huge amount of money disposable at the hands of public authorities acting like pirates dividing loot from pillage. The blast has also allowed the administration to be evasive in giving a full explanation of the three key questions: first, whether the cash came from public funds or private wealth; second, for what purpose it was; third what's the President's responsibility for the payoff.

The third is very important because it goes to the heart of the issue of accountability of the highest official of the land in the handling of taxpayers' money. She has shirked responsibility. The government's response to the demand for accountability has been characterized by disgusting lack of candor and outright dishonesty.

It has damaged further the administration's credibility, eroded more deeply public trust in it, and shattered whatever is left of its legitimacy already undermined by the scandal over the Garci tapes.

In both the cash gifts distribution and the Makati blast, the government has launched investigations that have so far run around in circles and that have been shrouded by obfuscation. In the cash dole, what amounted to the first official response of the Office of the President was a letter to Gov. Joselito Mendoza of Bulacan and Gov. Ed Panlilio of Pampanga. Both had earlier admitted they had each received a bag containing P500,000 in cash from Palace officials on Oct. 11. In a letter bristling with insufferable arrogance, Gloria Bundoc, director of the Office of the President's finance office, said the "Office of the President has not released/distributed any amount of money to your province."

The Palace has the gumption to issue the statement that flies in the face of new revelations by Mendoza and Panlilio. According to Mendoza, it was Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, secretary general of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), who told him about the money "for community projects," before a woman in white handed him two bags containing P500,000 each, in a room inside the Palace, with the instruction that he hand over the other bag to Panlilio. Mendoza said Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero and former Agusan del Sur Gov. Eddie Plaza were in the room when he received the bags from the woman. Panlilio had earlier admitted he received the bag from Mendoza.

According to Mendoza, he gave the bag to Panlilio's chief of staff, Archie Reyes. Panadero confirmed he was in the Palace on Oct. 11, but only to attend a Cabinet meeting and the oath-taking of the new officers of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

As the dissembling was going on under a smokescreen thrown around the President to protect her from being directly linked to the cash handouts, the government was shaken further by the Makati blast. Buffeted by the scandal and the blast, the President retreated behind the mantra that she has presided over the highest and uninterrupted economic growth rate for the past 27 quarters, which hit 7.2 percent in the first quarter of 2007.

The economic performance is both impressive and undeniable, but whatever the gains, they have been cancelled by the tremendous loss of public confidence inflicted by her response to these two unsettling events. Her economic performance has failed to give her the legitimacy that she desperately seeks to compensate for her disastrous shortfalls in governance. Her response to the series of scandals involving corruption has unmasked an alarming vacuum of authority to take control of events that are driving the government toward the precipice.

Oxo Oxo

THE WEBSITE OPENS AND YOU'RE GREETED BY A PHOTO of one of the band's members, with red hair gelled up punk-style. Welcome to "sputnikworld.com", the official website of the technopunk band Sigue Sigue Sputnik.

What was I doing in that website? Last week, I wrote about the 50th anniversary of Russia's launch of Sputnik, the world's first human-made satellite and how this caught the world's imagination, including a British technopunk rock band that adopted the name Sigue Sigue Sputnik. There has been speculation as to whether the band got its name from a Filipino gang, while other Internet discussions say it came from Russia, also a criminal gang.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Reader Ben Capistrano e-mailed, giving me a link to the rock band's website, which includes a history of the band written up by one of its members, Tony James. So, for the record, here's what happened, as it appears in Chapter 4 of the band's history:

James says the band got its name from an article in the International Herald Tribune, which mentioned the Russian street gang, Sigue Sigue Sputnik. Another Internet site says "sigue sigue" means "burn, burn" but I haven't been able to confirm this.

Anyway, James explains why the name was so attractive, pointing out that Sputnik was "mans (*sic*) first object in space. . .like some kind of man-made god. . ." There was probably more to Sputnik's appeal and this was the association with gangs, so fitting to the punk image.

Later, James writes, they found out that ". . . Sputnik is the name of a Manila motorcycle gang who when they kill people cut a notch in their arm. . . these are tough guys. . .respect."

Oh well, it's a testosterone-driven history (and website), if there ever was one.

Even before Capistrano wrote in, I was actually intending to do a follow-up article, but not specifically on Sigue Sigue Sputnik. While writing that article on Sputnik, something kept bothering me about the names, but I couldn't place it and, as usual, it was right after my column went to press that everything seemed to fall into place, as memories returned from my youth of seeing graffiti in the tougher neighborhoods of Metro Manila. What I remembered was "Oxo Oxo Sigue Sigue."

Suddenly I wasn't even sure if there was a local gang called Sigue Sigue Sputnik. I asked friends in an urban poor community if "Oxo Oxo Sigue Sigue" wasn't just one gang and they said, no, they were separate and, yes, there was Sigue Sigue Sputnik.

Fil-Am underside

Back to the Internet I went for a Google search and I stumbled upon an ongoing electronic chat (www.topix.net/forum/oakland) based in Oakland, California, but drawing in participants from all over the United States and the Philippines, where there has been often heated exchanges of views over an incident dating back to January 2006, when a 15-year-old boy was shot to death as he was standing on an Oakland street. The neighborhood was Latino, with known gangs, but the web discussions started when someone said, he suspected that it was a Filipino gang behind the killing. The postings erupted into several debates around the whole issue of gangs, with a strong focus on Filipino groups. As expected, there were people arguing for and against the gangs. much like the ongoing debates about fraternities at the University of the Philippines.

Reading the postings in that California site was not pleasant. The language was often the foulest of foul, and the discussions revealed a seedy, if not sinister underside to lower-class Filipino-American life, including the way Filipinos are pitted against Filipinos. Someone named "Loaded" tried to justify the gangs—BNG (Bahala Na Gang), Oxo Oxo, Sigue Sigue and Satanas—explaining they were first set up in Filipino prisons in the 1940s for mutual protection, and then exported to the States, with some of the gang members also now serving time in American prisons. "Young Play Boy 509" wrote to attack the older gangs, and talked about SDP or Samahan Dugo Pinoy, which he said was established "to protect immigrants from the domestic Pinoy born here." "Bahala 2" then jumped into the fray calling SDP a bunch of "snitches" and reprimanded "Young Play Boy 509" for shaming the Filipino community.

The discussions are often a mix of rage and frustration. "Loaded," reacting to calls to gang members to "get real," argues that their gang "put so many good things in Filipino history. Bahal is one of the so-called grilla war fare! Our older veterans help Filipino people 2 see freedom so don't talk to me if I'm not proud or not. . ."

He rages on: "2 bad for ur mom n dad u din't lern anything but critism cuz u got nothing 2 do but stick ur butt in ur chair all day and talk bout poor people!. . .if a person like me got a chance go in school ill probly a BETER person than u!"

Macho?

So there, without trying to justify these gangs (especially as I sit on my butt), we certainly need to look more into why these gangs are so attractive in low-income communities, whether in the Philippines or out there in one of California's inner cities. On the surface, we see a bunch of tough "gangstas" but really, these are male underdogs at the bottom of the social ladder who band together, thinking their gangs are the best ways of fighting the system but end up killing each other.

We move on now, from BNG to Sigma Rho and the Greek-letter fraternities. The frats tend to be headed by rich kids, but also attract many middle- and low-income males, who again see advantages in joining the frat in terms of connections. The frats are in many ways still much like Oxo Oxo and Sigue Sigue Sputnik, except that the Greek letters are there to give them a veneer of respectability. No wonder there are now imitations of these Greek letter frats in our public high schools, with very rough and violent hazing.

Lurking beneath the imagery of all these gangs and frats is still machismo, one which appealed even to the British rock group. I sometimes hear the term "warrior culture" used to refer to this machismo, but if you really look deeply into this, we're not talking about warriors in a Greek Spartan sense. It's a warrior culture that comes out of feudal societies: of soldiers blindly loyal to leaders, ready to kill and be killed. All said, I sense in these gangs and frats (and even the punk rock group), with their fascination with violence, something terribly emasculating, if not castrating.

Dying while giving life

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LONDON—DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF former Mayor Lito Atienza, an official of the mayor's office smugly declared to researchers: "In Manila, we are pro-life. We take care of our women."

If they thought that was true, then they certainly had a strange way of showing it. Tina Montales, Monet Maglaya, Susan Trias, Bernadette Antonio—all residents of San Andres Bukid and using assumed names to protect their privacy—had wanted to limit the number of their children because of poverty. But because of the mayor's order "discouraging" the use of all forms of contraceptives save for NFP, they found their sources of affordable family planning supplies suddenly drying up. As a consequence, they told writers of the report "Imposing Misery," in the years EO 003 was in place, they had at least four children more than they planned.

The consequences of the mayor's policy go far beyond the economic hardship the families faced. For some of the women, an unplanned and mistimed pregnancy actually threatened their survival. A mother with eight children said that after she gave birth to her fourth child, "the doctor at OM (Ospital ng Maynila) advised me not to get pregnant anymore because of my rheumatic heart condition. I wanted to have ligation but OM hasn't been providing family planning services. I was referred to Fabella Hospital but I couldn't afford the P2,000 fee."

Her story is echoed by other women who were "advised" not to get pregnant anymore, but were given nothing but referrals to other hospitals. The director of a national hospital in Manila observed that city authorities just didn't see the connection between making contraceptives unavailable and the impact on the health of women and children, including an increase in the number of induced unsafe abortions.

* * *

THE DEBACLE in Manila just proves the truth of the major themes of the "Women Deliver" conference in this city. The conference's closing statement said that the world now has a "clear consensus on the three pillars for saving the lives of women and newborns." These are: comprehensive reproductive health services; skilled care during and immediately after pregnancy and childbirth; and emergency care when life-threatening complications develop.

The first pillar is perhaps the most controversial, and, by knocking this pillar out from under its health program, Atienza actually endangered the lives of women and newborns under his "care."

It seems only logical, which is why it is also so exasperating, to encounter officials who can't seem to see it. Healthy women, some of whom will be healthy mothers giving birth to healthy babies, should first have been healthy girls. But if from childhood they suffer from malnutrition, neglect, lack education and suffer violence, then their "safe motherhood" is threatened long before they even become sexually active and pregnant. Women also need to be given the power to decide whether, when and how often they wish to get pregnant, and access to the means to make these decisions happen. As citizens, they have the human right to decide (and the right to receive information on) what method of preventing pregnancies they wish to practice. And when they do get pregnant, they have the right to receive quality pre-natal care, as well as the services of a skilled birth attendant during childbirth.

* * *

INDEED, giving women power and control over their own bodies and lives is key to their health and survival.

Bene Madunagu of the Girls' Power Initiative in Nigeria says even well-meaning initiatives and slogans are meaningless without taking into consideration the inequalities in relationships between men and women. The "ABC's" oft-mentioned as the solution to the HIV-AIDS crisis may not save women, especially young women, unless the issue of control is addressed, she said. "Abstinence has no meaning for young women who cannot 'abstain' from being raped or exploited. Being faithful or monogamous is useless if your partner or spouse is cheating on you. And condoms? What will you do to protect yourself if the man refuses to use one?"

Indeed, aside from the introduction of new medical procedures and technologies to make delivery safer, and the commitment by governments and foundations of more funds to make motherhood safer, another major theme in the conference was, as one speaker put it, "to sexualize human rights." That is, bring sexual and reproductive rights and women's rights into the global discourse of human rights.

Ana Cristina Gonzalez, former national director of public health in Colombia, recalled that when a yellow fever epidemic struck her country, there was such an outcry over the first death. "It was a scandal," she recalls. "But, I asked my boss, why it is that nobody says anything about 700 women dying every year from pregnancy and childbirth. This for me is the sin of omission."

Indeed, we all love our mothers. But we do have a funny way of showing that love. Together, we should all declare that "No woman should die giving life."

* * *

CORRECTIONS. In a recent column, I wrote that "at current rates, 10 million women die each year due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth." I got it wrong. A total of 10 million women have died in the 20 years since the Safe Motherhood Initiative was launched. Today, more than 536,000 women each year die while pregnant or while giving birth—one every minute.

Joining the Philippine delegation at the Ministers' Forum was Rep. Arthur Pingoy Jr., chair of the House committee on health. In place of Health Secretary Francisco Duque, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral was supposed to represent the executive department at the conference. But she, too, was a no-show.

Juan Luna's works

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

JUAN LUNA WAS BORN IN BADOC, ILOCOS Norte, 150 years ago today. There are many activities that will kick off a year of commemoration, which will hopefully make people curious about Luna the man, the artist and the hero. Unfortunately, those who want to read up on his life and art are limited to four main sources of information, all out of print and not readily found in bookstores. The heaviest work (physically) is the coffee-table book "Luna The Filipino as Painter" by Santiago Albano Pilar, professor of art history at the UP College of Fine Arts. Then there is the little gem of a book, the monograph by the late E. Aguilar Cruz with his sensitive and sensible essay "The Other Luna," complemented with annotated colored photographs of Luna's work. There is a long entry on Luna, as well as a preliminary listing of his known works, both those that were extant after the Battle for Manila in 1945 and those that were lost or believed destroyed during the war, in the first volume of the "Dictionary of Philippine Biography" by the late E. Arsenio Manuel. And last but not least, what can be considered the "mother of all Luna biographies": a sketchy biographical outline by the late architect Carlos E. Da Silva who was one of the moving figures behind the Juan Luna Centennial Commission that implemented the celebration of Luna's birth centenary.

It is hoped that between his 150th birthday in 2007 and the 110th anniversary of his death in 2009, someone will write a new book that will update the existing information, and, more importantly, show us, in pictures, the full range of Luna's work: his paintings, watercolors and drawings.

So far Luna is remembered for a handful of paintings. There are the historical works: "Spoliarium" which is again available for viewing in the National Gallery of Art of the National Museum and "Pacto de Sangre" (Blood Compact) which now hangs at the top of the grand staircase that leads to the Ceremonial Hall of Malacañang. There is the allegorical painting "España y Filipinas" now in the Lopez Memorial Museum that depicts Spain leading the Philippines along the way to progress. And finally, there is "La Bulaqueña" or "Una Bulaqueña," depending on the source you are reading, that used to adorn the Music Room of Malacañang and is now back in the National Museum after a long absence. This impressive portrait of a woman whose identity is still being contested by historians continues to puzzle and delight more than a century after it was painted. Each time I gaze upon her, I wonder what she saw and heard during her stay in Malacañang.

It is unfortunate that we have very little of Luna's watercolors. The most famous was a set of illustrations that he made to illustrate the Tagalog version of "Noli me tangere." These were believed destroyed during the war and we are indebted to the pioneering art dealer, art restorer and art historian Alfonso Ongpin who preserved them in a photograph album. A set of Ongpin's photographs, not just of the works of Luna but also of Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, Fabian de la Rosa, Fernando Amorsolo and other artists, were made for the collector Luis Araneta. Thus, it is the "Luis Araneta Photo File" that is cited by researchers who have not looked beyond to see its original source.

The delightful "Noli" illustrations, I think, were made to accompany the translation made by Paciano Rizal and corrected by the author himself in Hong Kong some time in 1892. This would have been the definitive edition, except that the manuscript cannot be located. Paciano's grandchildren remember seeing what may or may not be the "Noli" translation in their lolo's home in Los Baños, and we hope it will turn up someday.

In the National Library, we have a small but important Luna watercolor that was found in a junk heap in the National Library by E. Aguilar Cruz. This was made in Leitmeritz (now part of the Czech Republic), when Luna visited Ferdinand Blumentritt, the friend of Rizal. This watercolor gives us an idea of the original colors of the flag whenever there is a controversy over its shades of red, white, blue and yellow.

One watercolor that I hope will also turn up is a small view of the Hong Kong harbor that accompanied a letter Luna wrote to his son Luling in December 1899. I remember handling this treasure 20 years ago, when it was on sale. It was a delicate work on crumbling paper, but it is probably Luna's last work. He was traveling to Manila to be with his son and he wrote a short letter to him. To fill the vacant space at the end, he took out his brushes and made a view of the so-called "fragrant harbor." He suffered a heart attack and died there on Dec. 7, 1899.

There is so much material that has come up since the standard works on Luna were published, and his 150th birth anniversary is a good time to get people interested in him again. However, when Luna's life and work are reassessed in the light of new information and newly recovered artworks, he should be studied not as a patriot right away but first as a person, then as an artist to provide context and value to his life and work as one of our national heroes.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

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RP is not 'small and weak'

AN ARTICLE ("ACCEPTABLE PRESence' new US basing plan," INQUIRER, 10/15/07) stated that the Philippines is "one small and weak country." This statement is not true. It is a myth. It is a lie.

The Philippines is the 12th largest country in the world. It is larger than any European country. It is larger than any but one country in Africa. It is larger than any but one country in South America. There are over 160 countries in the world smaller than the Philippines, most barely a fraction of its size; over 150 less than half its size. Metro Manila alone is bigger than half of all the countries of the world. The Roman Empire at its height only had 60 percent of the people that the Philippines has.

Neither is the Philippines weak. To put it simply, a country that is twice the size of 90 percent of all the countries in the world is not weak. A country whose largest city is larger than most countries is not weak. Further, the Philippine economy is in the upper quartile as is the size of its military. The Philippines is an English-speaking country, giving us, in this "English-speaking" world, influence much larger than our size. Filipinos also go abroad in disproportional numbers, making many important key industries dependent upon them.

Adding to the Philippines' importance is that we are in Asia, a far more important corner of the world—geopolitically that is—than, say, Africa or Latin America. The Philippines has played important, influential roles in such events as World War II, the Vietnam War and the Cold War. We will be a key player in such continuing issues as the "War on Terror" and Chinese and Indian growth.

The statement that the Philippines is small and weak is only true when the country is compared to the United States. But the United States is a historical anomaly. No country has ever been as big, powerful or dominant as the United States, particularly in the last generation or so. That country is odd. We should not look to the United States for comparison but to countries more like the Philippines, countries like Indonesia or Columbia.

Instead of asking, "Why are we not like the United States?" we should look at countries like Nigeria, Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, Afghanistan, and ask, "Why are we not like them?"

—BRUCE HALL,
bruceiniloilo@gmail.com

Widow's overdue claim recommended for approval

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO Nana F. Lorenzana's letter (INQUIRER, 9/11/07) titled "Pension for veteran's widow overdue." The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office also received a letter from Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita, 1st District, Parañaque City, inquiring in her behalf about the status of her grandmother's application for old age pension claim.

The claim has already been approved under Master List No. 07-01089 on Sept. 25, 2007 and was transmitted to the Office of the Director III for review/concurrence or reversal of our recommendation thereof.

—MELINDA I. LUNA,
acting chief,
Old Age Pension Division,
Philippine Veterans Affairs Office,
Veterans Compound,
Quezon City

Manila Water service upgrade in San Juan and Mandaluyong

Manila Water will undertake service improvement projects which will cause temporary water supply interruption in the following portions of San Juan and Mandaluyong:

Schedule: 10:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 24, 2007 up to 6:00 a.m., Thursday, October 25, 2007.

Affected areas:

San Juan: Barangays Little Baguio; Addition Hills; Santolan; Valencia; North and West Greenhills; Horseshoe; Pasadena; Corazon De Jesus and Pleasant Hills.

Mandaluyong: Addition Hills; Pleasant Hills; San Jose; Plainview and Hagdang Bato Libis.

Manila Water Company is advising all residents of the said areas to store enough water to supply their needs during the interruption period.

We want to serve you better.

Manila Water

These service improvement projects are necessary to ensure safe and reliable water supply for our East Zone customers.

For updates, please call our Customer Care Hotline 1627

(PDI – Oct. 24, 2007)

TANDUAY
107
HOME OF NU ROCK
PRESENT
RHUM ROCKFEST
FEATURING:
6CYCLEMIND, CHICOSCI, CALLALILY, JEEPNEY JOYRIDE, CAMBIO, HILERA, PROTEIN SHAKE, SPACEFLOWER SHOW, PEDICAB AND MARYZARK.
OCT. 27, 2007, SATURDAY, 7 PM
MAIN ENTRANCE SOUTH OPEN PARKING, STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL CAINTA RIZAL
DRINK MODERATELY

Charter change as diversionary ploy

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S attempt to resurrect once again the proposal to amend the Constitution is nothing but an attempt to shift public attention from the unresolved issues of bribery haunting her administration.

If Ms Arroyo thinks that with this diversionary tactic, the issues will be forgotten, she should think again. Maypagasa will make sure these issues will continue to haunt her until the truth comes out and someone is held accountable.

Maypagasa will also do everything to stop Ms Arroyo from using Charter change as a means to prolong her stay in power beyond 2010 and to escape prosecution for the anomalies involving her. It is clear that she and her minions are once again using the Constitution as an "escape route" from public accountability.

—ROEL GARCIA,
spokesperson, Maypagasa,
roelgarcia_772000@yahoo

Failed Philippine educational system

MAY I THANK FRED VALERO FOR CARING TO comment on my position on the Sigma Rogues and uncivilized people (UP). (INQUIRER, 10/13/07)

My wife and three kids, two siblings and her four siblings, as well as a gaggle of other kin, attended UP (University of the Philippines), which the taxpayer subsidizes. I attended Makati Elementary School and Rizal High School, also so subsidized, but all I got was a suspension of a few days in the latter for some prank. I went to San Beda, which the taxpayer does not subsidize, either. San Beda produced Ninoy Aquino, Monching Mitra, FPJ and Raul Roco, reasons enough for me not to aspire to be president. I would like to live longer.

Seriously, UP and the Philippine Military Academy, subsidized by the people; and to a lesser extent, Ateneo (e.g., Nani Perez), Assumption (e.g., Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo), La Salle (e.g., Ricky Razon), Letran (e.g., Chavit Singson), and yes, San Beda (e.g., Saguisag), may be all to blame for the mess we are in today.

I suggest that our educational system has failed us. But, utterly.

—RENE A.V. SAGUISAG,
4045 Bigasan St.,
Palanan, Makati City

Why Monsod is wrong on Jpepa

RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUSTICE Florentino Feliciano, former chair of the WTO Appellate Body and one of the most sought-after arbitrators in international investment disputes, is right on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) and Prof. Solita Monsod does not understand.

First, the Jpepa debate is not a rerun of the WTO (World Trade Organization) debates. Some of Jpepa's key elements are foreign to WTO law—e.g., regulation of investment measures that are not trade-related; undertakings on competition policy and on business environment. Jpepa affects almost every kind of economic measure that relates to trade with Japan and Japanese investments. Its obligations intrude more deeply into economic policies than those of the WTO, which only regulates trade policies.

The new Investments Chapter by itself falls within a field of public international law entirely different from WTO law—international investments law. It will be interpreted in light of comparable bilateral and investment treaties, including the North American Free Trade Agreement, and applicable Nafta and Icsid (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes) jurisprudence.

Second, no sufficient reservations were effectively made on constitutionally protected sectors (e.g., public utilities). Because the Investments Chapter of Jpepa is unlike anything in the WTO, our negotiators cannot presume that, when they attach conditions in the Services Chapter, those would produce the intended legal effects. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development warned against presuming that services could be easily segregated from the reach of investments regulation (2006).

Articles 88 and 89 can thus be interpreted to allow a Japanese to buy shares in a Philippine public utility even if the total foreign equity breaches the 60 percent constitutional limit if the Japanese will own the shares without operating the public utility. Justice Feliciano's advice: Do what the Japanese and the other Asean countries did in the various EPAs (economic partnership agreements); make comprehensive reservations in both services and investments annexes and incorporate the full text of all the constitutional preferences in Annex 7.

Feliciano warns of a greater constitutional failure than the one on public utilities—the complete absence of any Philippine reservation for future measures. We have abandoned our right to enact preferential measures for Filipinos and to impose certain conditions on Japanese investments—the opposite of what Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia did in their EPAs with Japan. To Feliciano, there is no way to save Jpepa but to amend Annex 7. Surely, Japan can understand this.

No, Ms Monsod, the emperor has clothes, and he is, as usual, wearing his finest and wisest judicial robes.

—MA. LOURDES "MEILOU" SERENO,
former professor,
UP College of Law;
former counselor,
WTO Appellate Body

Suspicious toxic wastes section

I AGREE WITH THE OBSERVATION Solita Monsod made in her column, "Under Jpepa, no export of hazardous wastes to RP," that the Philippines and Japan remain committed to local and international laws regarding the trade of toxic wastes. (INQUIRER, 10/20/07)

That being the case, I can't see why the negotiators of both countries still insisted on including them under the coverage of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa)—that is, if, indeed, both countries had no intention whatsoever in violating their respective laws on the trade and transport of toxic wastes, as well as their commitment to the Basel Convention.

To my mind, after getting negative feedback from environment activists of both countries, the negotiators of both sides should have simply either deleted or amended the section that deals on toxic wastes. That would have been the end of the issue on toxic wastes. To the initiated, the Exchange of Notes would suffice. But to the majority of our populace, an amendment would have been a better alternative and it would have avoided this impasse.

Keeping that section even though it had no use and effect—as the Exchange of Notes made it sound and appear—instead of deleting or amending it, only cast doubts on the section's real intention.

—LITO MADRASTO,
mmadrasto@hotmail.com

Records show an independent-minded Miriam

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO RAFFY REY HIPOLITO's letter ("Miriam's money ethic unrealistic," INQUIRER, 10/15/07) in which he deliberately chose to ignore key points in Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's arguments in the Senate hearings. The transcript of the hearings will attest to the senator's performance as a seasoned lawyer and judge and as an independent-minded public servant.

We are wary of the motives of Hipolito, an advocacy officer of an NGO concerned with agrarian reform and rural development, in casting aspersions on the senator and her family. He just had to mention the Comelec and party-list organizations in his letter.

If he had indeed closely followed the Senate NBN hearings, as he purports to have done, he would know that the senator did not treat then Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, or any administration official, with kid gloves.

—TOM TOLIBAS,
Office of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago,
mdsmediabureau@yahoo.com

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Port of Clark
Collection District XIV
Clarkfield, Pampanga

12 October 2007

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, other related provisions of the same Code and CMO 5-2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (Sealed Bidding) to be conducted at the Office of the District Collector on 9 November 2007 (Friday) of the hereunder listed diesel fuel. Said item shall be available for public viewing on 8 November 2007 (Thursday).

In the event of failed bidding, the same shall be offered in a second auction to be held on the third business day following the first failed bidding at the same time and place with no reduction of the floor price and without need for further advertisement, except as to perishable items which may be auctioned again on the following business day. When at least two (2) of the sealed bids submitted in an auction fall within ten percent (10%) of the highest bid, the same should be above the floor price (clustering). Those in the cluster shall immediately go into an open bidding with the highest sealed bid serving as the new floor price of the lot being sold.

The winning bidder shall be required to pay fifty percent (50%) of the bid price either in cash and/or manager's check (PNB only) at the end of the bidding. For meritorious reason, said bidder may be allowed to make such payment not later than two hours from the awarding of won bid. The remaining balance of 50% of the bid price shall be paid within the next business day.

IMPORTANT:
Only registered bidders who have paid the **Registration Fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00)** and **Cash Bond (Refundable) of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00)** are eligible to participate in the auction sale.

Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. and will close at 2:00 p.m.

For further inquiry, please contact telephone nos. (045) 599-7189-91.

SALE LOT NO.	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
01-07	100,000 liters diesel fuel	Php2,650,600

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RONNIE C. SILVESTRE**
District Collector

(PDI–Oct. 24, 2007)

David vs Goliath

IN THE FIGHT BETWEEN President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia, it is easy to see who will "win" in the end. It is like the proverbial combat between David and Goliath, albeit in a more literal sense, with GMA being the diminutive David holding the slingshot, which is the money bag. And, in the Philippines, whoever holds the "power of the purse" wins, for the loyalty of congressmen begins where their pockets are lined.

JDV's only consolation? Just like him (and former President Fidel V. Ramos, perhaps) who invented and abetted the politics of pork barrel, GMA, who perfected and abused it, will also have her comeuppance.

For hapless Filipinos like me and many others, we can only hope and pray it will come soon enough.

—JOCELYN S. GONZALES,
jsgonzalescm78
@yahoo.com

BRITISH AMERICAN
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PHILIPPINES

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

PALL MALL EXCISE TAX CLASSIFICATION

There have been recent media reports discrediting the July 24, 2007 ruling of the Department of Finance (DOF) on our cigarette brand Pall Mall. This ruling affirmed the final excise tax rate of Pall Mall at P6.74 per pack -- a rate consistent with other mid-price brands, allows us to compete fairly, gives consumers a wider choice, and allows us to increase the level of our investment in the Philippines. These reports may have been due to inadequate, incorrect or misleading information. We wish to set the record straight.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE ABOUT?

1.What is the current controversy regarding Pall Mall?

The current controversy revolves around a single question: what is the legal and appropriate excise tax classification of Pall Mall? Is it P26.06 per pack, as the former Commissioner of Internal Revenue Jose Mario Bunag decided in his February 22, 2007 ruling, or P6.74 per pack, as the DOF had finally ruled in its July 24, 2007 decision?

IT IS P6.74, AND HERE IS WHY

2. When was Pall Mall introduced in the Philippine market?

Pall Mall, BAT's leading international mid-price brand, was introduced in the domestic market in August 2004.

3. What excise tax rate has the manufacturer of Pall Mall been paying since its introduction?

La Suerte, BAT's partner in the Philippines, has been paying an excise tax rate of P5.60 per pack (now P6.74 per pack) for Pall Mall since its introduction. This is based on the net retail price as stated in the manufacturer's declaration. Pall Mall, being a mid-price brand, is subject to an excise tax of P6.74 per pack, the same as all other brands in this price bracket. The law provides for a defined process for the BIR to validate and then revalidate the net retail price, and based on this, to determine the final excise tax classification.

4. What is the validation and revalidation process?

The net retail price is validated and revalidated by the BIR through price surveys. The first price survey is to be conducted three months from product launch. The second price survey is to be conducted eighteen months thereafter for revalidation. The BIR is then required by law to issue the final excise tax classification based on the results of these surveys.

5. What happened in the case of Pall Mall?

BAT and La Suerte filed numerous requests with the BIR to conduct the legally-mandated price surveys. However, no such surveys were done within the prescribed periods, i.e. in November 2004 for the first price survey and in May 2006 for the second price survey. Section 8 of Revenue Regulations 3-2006 clearly stipulates that if the BIR fails to conduct the requisite price surveys, the proper tax classification shall be based on the net retail price as stated in the manufacturer's declaration. On this basis alone, Pall Mall should have been granted its final excise classification as a mid-price brand, at a resultant excise rate of P6.74 per pack.

6. Did the BIR conduct a price survey subsequent to these prescribed periods?

The BIR did conduct a price survey on December 22, 2006, but only after it was directed by the DOF to do so. This is 28 months from Pall Mall's introduction into the local market.

The BIR's price survey showed that Pall Mall was priced within the mid-price segment with an actual gross retail price of P14.00 per pack. This was further confirmed by an independent price survey carried out simultaneously by AC Nielsen in 133 stores in Metro Manila.

7. If all the legal processes support a P6.74 final classification, what gave rise to the current controversy?

Disregarding the results of his own survey, former Commissioner Buñag issued on February 22, 2007 a ruling classifying Pall Mall at the premium segment with an applicable tax rate of P26.06 per pack, almost twice Pall Mall's retail price of P14.00 per pack.

8. What was the former Commissioner's basis for this premium segment classification at P26.06 per pack?

Former Commissioner Bunag classified Pall Mall at the premium segment on the sole basis of the rate paid by Duty Free Philippines (DFP) when it imported Pall Mall for sale in its outlets in December 2004, or five months after the locally manufactured Pall Mall had already been introduced into the domestic market. This argument was first advanced by a third party, lawyer Mike Baron, who wrote to the Commissioner on January 20, 2006, requesting that Pall Mall be classified at the highest excise segment.

And yet, in his letter to the DOF dated June 13, 2007, Commissioner Buñag admitted that "based on the results of the price survey on [Pall Mall] and its variants conducted last December 22, 2006, the respective average net retail prices thereof, excluding the value added and excise taxes, is P6.15 per pack with the applicable [excise] tax rate of P6.35 (now P6.74)"

9. What is the effect of this February 22, 2007 BIR ruling?

This ruling unfairly raised the excise tax rate on Pall Mall from P6.74 per pack to P26.06 per pack. BAT and La Suerte exercised their legal right to appeal this ruling to the DOF on April 18, 2007, pursuant to the procedure laid down in DOF Department Order No. 07-02.

10. What action did the DOF take on BAT's appeal?

The Secretary of Finance, in a decision dated July 24, 2007, rightfully gave effect to the rule of law and reversed and set aside the ruling of Commissioner Bunag, and issued a new ruling, finally classifying locally manufactured Pall Mall at the mid-price segment with an excise tax rate of P6.74 per pack.

AT P6.74 PER PACK, IT IS THE LEGAL RATE

11. Why is P6.74 per pack the legal rate?

The excise rate of P6.74 per pack is legal on two grounds. It is the automatic classification of Pall Mall when BIR failed to conduct the required validation and revalidation within the prescribed periods. More importantly, it is based on the results of the price survey which confirmed that Pall Mall should be classified as a mid-price brand.

12. Why is the February 22, 2007 ruling incorrect?

Commissioner Bunag anchored his ruling on Section 12 of Revenue Regulations 3- 3-2006. This section states that "in case of brands imported by the said enterprises/locators in the freeport zones and by the DFP, whose proper tax classifications are determined by the BIR but the same shall be subsequently imported by another importer or local manufacturer, such subsequent importation/ manufacture of the same brands shall, likewise, be treated as a new brand. Provided, that the tax classification thereof shall not be lower than that determined for the introduction of the same brand within the freeport zones or DFP".

Hence, in order that the P25 per pack excise tax rate paid by DFP on its imported Pall Mall may be used as basis for classifying the local Pall Mall, it is required that (1) the tax classification of the DFP-imported Pall Mall has been previously determined by the BIR, and (2) the local Pall Mall is subsequently imported or locally manufactured. These two conditions were not present. No validation or revalidation was ever done by the BIR on the DFP-imported Pall Mall. And as stated earlier, local Pall Mall was already being manufactured and paying an excise tax rate of P6.35 per pack before and not subsequent to the DFP importation.

13. Does the DOF ruling constitute a downward reclassification which is prohibited by law?

No. There was never a final classification of Pall Mall until the DOF ruling. Under DOF Department Order No. 7-02, a reversal by the DOF shall terminate the effectivity of the BIR ruling. The DOF classification of local Pall Mall as a mid-price brand effectively places Pall Mall in the correct tax bracket and at the rate which Pall Mall had been paying all along since its launch.

AT P6.74 PER PACK, IT IS A FAIR RATE

14. Are there any locally-manufactured brands paying the highest excise rate of P26.06?

There is none. All locally-manufactured brands are either **value for money brands** (excise rate of P2.23 per pack), **mid-price brands** (excise rate of P6.74 per pack), or **high-price brands** (excise rate of P10.88 per pack.). If Commissioner Bunag's ruling had not been reversed, Pall Mall would be the only locally-manufactured brand that will be paying at the **premium segment rate of P26.06 per pack.**

15. Has the DOF given BAT preferential treatment? How does the Pall Mall ll classification compare to other leading tobacco brands in the Philippines?

No preferential treatment was given to BAT. The Pall Mall classification is consistent with the classification of other leading tobacco brands as evidenced by the table below. This clearly demonstrates that Pall Mall is appropriately and fairly taxed at the rate of P6.74 per pack.

Brands	Gross Retail Price per pack	Excise per pack
Fortune	P10.50	P2.23
Champion Menthol	P12.00	P2.23
Pall Mall	P14.00	P6.74
Hope	P23.00	P6.74
Winston	P23.00	P6.74

16. Are there other cigarette brands imported by DFP paying the highest tax rate of P26.06 that have counterpart local brands paying a lower tax rate?

Yes. Following are some brands whose classification and domestic tax rates are lower than their DFP classification and tax rate:

Brands	DFP Tax Rate	Domestic Tax Rate
Winston	P26.06 (premium)	P6.74 (mid-price)
Marlboro	P26.06 (premium)	P10.88 (high-price)
Philip Morris 100's	P26.06 (premium)	P10.88 (high-price)

17. Does the July 24, 2007 DOF ruling result in a loss of tax revenues to the government?

No. There is no loss of revenue to the government. The higher excise rate was never imposed as locally manufactured Pall Mall had always been paying an excise rate of P6.74. Therefore, there could be no loss of tax revenue.

On the contrary, if the higher rate of P26.06 per pack was implemented, it would lead to an increase in the price of Pall Mall, and, in turn, result in lower volumes and a subsequent loss of tax revenue.

AN ISSUE OF LAW, BUT ALSO OF FAIR PLAY

The July 24, 2007 DOF ruling enables BAT and La Suerte to continue and grow their business and contribute to the investments, employment and revenue requirements of the Philippine government. Through this DOF ruling, the government delivers a strong message to the local and international business community that it is committed to supporting a fair and competitive trading environment and an equitable and level playing field in the country.

Some of our competitors have written to the DOF requesting a review of its ruling on Pall Mall. We believe that our competitors' position would certainly promote barriers to entry and unfair competition.

We trust that the foregoing helps in clarifying inadequate, incorrect, and misleading information, and in enlightening the public on the relevant facts of this subject.

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Gov't, MILF panels meet to break impasse

COTABATO CITY—GOVERNMENT and Moro rebel negotiators yesterday opened another round of a special meeting in Kuala Lumpur in a bid to break the impasse in their peace talks, rebel sources said.

Government sources could not be contacted to verify the information.

Mohammad Ameen, chair of the MILF central committee secretariat, said retired Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief government negotiator, and Mohagher Iqbal, MILF peace panel chief, met with their panel members in the Malaysian capital.

Asked if the panels would achieve anything during the resumption of discussions, Ameen said both sides could always decide to extend the executive session.

More talks

"Hopefully, they will be able to set the date for the next round of the formal peace negotiations," he said.

Ameen described the meeting as a "question-and-answer" session, in which both sides would also try to settle disagreements on the ancestral domain issue.

The issue on territory remains the most serious obstacle to a final peace agreement between the government and the MILF.

It has also been causing delays in the resumption of formal talks. The MILF insists on the inclusion of at least 1,000 villages in the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE) without preconditions.

The government said at least 600 villages could be provisionally included in the future Bangsamoro territory but its final composition would depend on the outcome of a plebiscite to be called for that purpose.

Constitution

The government's use of the Constitution as a framework for the negotiations is also being opposed by the MILF.

Ameen said the MILF would push for the immediate resumption of the talks as the Bangsamoro people were getting impatient over the long delay.

Earlier, Khaled Musa, chair of the MILF committee on information, chided the government for saying that delays did not matter as long as the ceasefire was holding in Mindanao. "We cannot accept perpetual ceasefire while the peace process is stagnating," he said.

Kuala Lumpur had also expressed dissatisfaction at the pace the talks were moving.

MILF surrender

Wire reports quoted a ranking Malaysian official as saying his government would withdraw from the International Monitoring Team (IMT) if there was no substantive movement in the peace talks.

The IMT, which oversees implementation of the 2001 ceasefire between the government and the MILF, is being led by Malaysia. Its other members include Brunei, Libya and Japan. *Edwin Fernandez and Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Pampanga board, gov quarrel over quarry turning into war

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE PAMPANGA provincial board overrode the veto by Gov. Eddie Panlilio of an ordinance that he said weakened the governor's regulatory powers over the multimillion-peso sand industry.

The board's action prompted Panlilio and large-scale quarry operators to prepare the filing of cases at the Department of Justice and a regional trial court here on Tuesday.

The board on Monday voted 12-0 to supersede Panlilio's veto on Ordinance No. 176.

"We have done our legislative actions and in my view, we did not violate any procedures or laws. It is just time that we give the benefits of quarry operations to barangays and towns from which the sand is taken," said Board Member Crisostomo Garbo, proponent of the measure filed by the Pampanga Mayors' League on Aug. 29.

Implementation

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, the board's presiding officer, ordered the board secretary, Luis River, to have the ordinance published in full in newspapers of general circulation to pave the way for its immediate implementation.

Guiao said the board deferred action on the veto last week to "consult with constituents."

The override came as the Panlilio administration collected at least P80.61 million in 81 working days from July 2 to Oct. 22, a report from the governor's office showed.

The amount is nearly equivalent to the P78.15 million collected from 2004 to 2006 when Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and his son, Mark, were governors, an INQUIRER review of quarry income in those years showed.

Unconstitutional

The capitol collects a P150 tax for every truckload of sand and P150 as administrative fee, which is paid to personnel guarding against irregularities in the field. The tax is divided at P45, P45 and P60 by the province, towns and barangays from which sand was extracted.

The cases will be filed when Panlilio and the Pampanga Large-Scale Quarry Operators Association Inc. get their copies of Resolution 1022, through which the board overrode the veto.

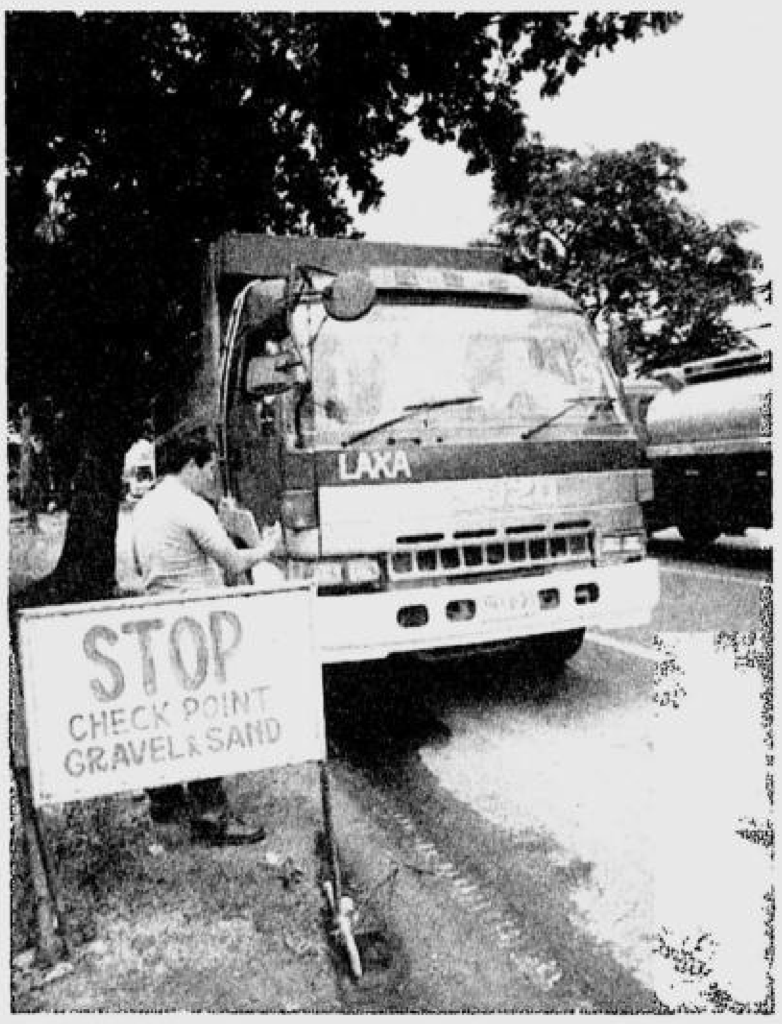
Panlilio will ask the DOJ to void the ordinance for being "unconstitutional."

Aside from the lack of mandatory public hearings, the enactment of the ordinance was contrary to the provisions of national laws, such as the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160), Mining Act of 1995 (RA 7942) and the People's Small-scale Mining Act of 1991 (RA 7076), he said.

The provision for an increase in income share could have been addressed by merely amending Tax Ordinance No. 1-98, Panlilio said.

He said the abolition of the administrative fee, collection of taxes, and disbursement of receipts by a non-capitol employee and the policing by the mayors over the industry diminished the regulatory powers of the executive's office.

"This is poised to be a landmark case because if the ordinance is implemented, this will set a precedent. Other provincial governors will lose their regulatory powers as well over mining resources in their areas," he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



THIS QUARRY checkpoint, run by the Pampanga provincial government, makes sure that trucks carrying Mt. Pinatubo's sand properly pay taxes and fees. TONETTE T OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

DAVAO SUNSET DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO
Sunset in the Davao River never fails to attract viewers. Davao City has been touted to be the most livable in the country.

Mangroves dying in wake of oil spill, says survey

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—MANGROVES continue to die on Semirara Island in Antique, almost two years after a massive oil spill hit the island, survey results showed.

The survey, conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Western Visayas, showed that 895 mangrove trees in a 45.84-hectare area had died.

The number of dead trees in Semirara were found to be higher than the 662 reported on Guimaras Island where a massive oil spill occurred last year.

The survey was conducted on Jan. 14-20, but the results were released only Oct. 18.

It said the affected areas include 24.27 ha of natural stands and 21.75 ha of DENR plantation. At least five hectares were considered severely damaged.

On Dec. 18, 2005, a National Power Corp. (Napocor) barge, battered by strong winds and waves, ran aground off Semirara while being towed by a tugboat to Oriental Mindoro from Masbate.

About 360,000 liters of the nearly 900,000 liters of bunker fuel stored in the barge's four tanks, were spilled, causing damages to mangroves and marine life in parts of the 5,045-hectare island.

Semirara is part of a group of nine islands of Caluya town in Antique, where Semirara Mining Corp., the biggest coal mine in the country, is operating.

Cops see white slavery gang behind abductions

COTABATO CITY—WHITE slavery in Lanao del Sur has stirred the interest of authorities anew with the recent rescue of a 3-year-old boy, who was snatched in this city two months ago.

Senior Supt. Willie Dangane, city police chief, said the boy, the son of a saleslady, was reported missing after he was last seen standing in front of the store where his mother works on Aug. 29.

A few weeks later, the child's parents received information that he was being kept by a Maranao couple in Piagapo, Lanao del Sur.

The parents went to the place and sought the help of local police.

They found their child in the hands of a Datu Daud Tuglao, who claimed that he bought him from unidentified men for P3,000.

Dangane said Tuglao demanded P50,000 and a .45 cal. pistol from the couple in exchange for freeing the boy.

But the parents had no money so they decided to seek police help, he said.

Dangane said he immediately formed a five-member team and went to Lanao del Sur.

He said the team coordinated with Lanao del Sur police director Supt. Paniares Adap in rescuing the boy. *Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Cavite governor to proceed with landfill amid protests

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—DESPITE the opposition of residents, local government officials and some members of the Catholic Church, Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi is keen on continuing a sanitary landfill project in Ternate, Cavite.

Maliksi said on Tuesday that he was willing to listen to Ternate residents and environmental groups which expressed concern over the safety of the landfill in Barangay Sapang.

"In fact, we have already conducted several dialogues with residents all over Cavite. Those who are against the landfill were also there," he told the INQUIRER.

He said he would meet with Imus Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle and other officials of the archdiocese to explain the need for a landfill in the area.

He dared members of the Cavite Green Consortium (CGC), the Tertaneños Against Landfill and other groups opposing the project to offer alternatives to solve the garbage problem in the province.

"I'm ready to meet with those who are against this project. But I also challenge them to present better solutions," Maliksi said.

He said Cavite residents should realize the gravity of the problem before it reached a more alarming stage.

Every day, Cavite produces more than 1,000 tons of domestic waste, he said. Many municipalities had to pay hefty amounts to dispose of their garbage in Laguna.

"Those who oppose the landfill should understand that because we lacked proper garbage facility, most of the domestic wastes are being dumped in rivers and other bodies of water," he said.

"That's more problematic and more dangerous to the health of the people and the environment than keeping a landfill," he added.

He said the project was "environmentally sound" after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued an environmental clearance certificate to Environsave Inc., proponent of the landfill.

On Oct. 18, hundreds of Ternate residents, including some town officials, held a rally to protest the opening of the landfill and to urge Maliksi and the DENR to immediately stop its construction.

Councilor Jason Cabana said members of the municipal council were against the project. "Just like any residents here, we're afraid of the effect of the landfill on the health of the people and to the environment," he said.

Fr. Cornelio Matanguihan, coordinator of the ministry on ecology of the Imus archdiocese, said a study by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau identified two fault lines within the site of the garbage facility—the Ternate and Maragondon—that posed hazards to the proposed landfill.

The priest said the same study listed the area as prone to landslide and flash floods.

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Signs of a bungled relocation project

By Tonette Orejas
Subic, Zambales

AS RAINS KNOCKED HARD over the Redondo Peninsula in Subic, Zambales, one afternoon in August, Romeo Altares went up and down the hill, looking out for signs of another landslide.

His wife Julieta was cautious, gathering their three children and a grandson within her arm's reach.

The house next door, their daughter's, had been vacant for over two weeks, although Romeo had shoveled the debris of rocks and soil out of the yard.

"The landslides happened at around midnight. I told my daughter to leave her house and move in with us. We haven't had a good sleep since then," Romeo said.

With three families or 13 people taking refuge under one roof, the Altares' three-by-five meters house is crowded.

In a relocation site in Sitio Agusuhin, where they and some 470 other families have been transferred, Altares has reasons to be nervous and vigilant.

Hazards

Their house sits only five meters below the right side of the peak of Agusuhin. The first school building that was built there had been torn down after it collapsed two days after the opening of classes in August last year.

The second crumbled in July, with thin steel bars jutting out of walls that have cracked. Abandoned, the structure tilts downhill toward some 50 houses lining the steep, rocky road.

"Quarry is beautiful than this place. Quarry is like a paradise. It's flat and there are no rocks. It's safe there," Julieta said, hankering for her old village that got its name from the activity of the US Navy there and which the South Korean shipbuilder, Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co., has occupied since May last year.

On another hill, two more school buildings show signs of a looming disaster. One is built below the other like stairs, and only three meters apart. Both stand on clayish soil, slippery and soft on rainy days.

Walls show cracks and portions of the walkway are detaching from the concrete columns. If anything bad happens, the lives of 430 students are imperiled.

For the 221 high school students who come from the sitios of Nagbayuhan, Nagyantoc, Agusuhin, Nagtulong and Kinabuksan, traveling by boat for 45 minutes to get to the school is already dangerous.

"Local officials did not consult with us students when they transferred our school (from Quarry) to Agusuhin," said Roxanne Amorin, the student council's president.

Nightmarish

Aside from the unsafe structures, the place is nightmarish for many other reasons, according to mothers like Nida Marcial and Filda Manangan.

Water comes from a concrete, open impounding tank linked to a stream. The INQUIRER has not seen any of the three elevated tanks worth P585,500 each in Hanjin's P18-million purchase order to North Bound Hardware & General Merchandise in Castillejos, Zambales.

The health center is unfinished; so are the two toilets in the elementary school building. Teachers have given up their two sleeping quarters to accommodate more classrooms. Two chapels await completion.

Hanjin's purchase order did not include materials for the installation of electricity, construction of roads, and drainage systems.

Unlike in Quarry where they had enough food from the farms, the residents now have to buy everything in Agusuhin. They were not given farm lots to till here. Jeepney fare is P30 for a one-way ride to town.

The people rebuilt their homes from money Hanjin paid them for damages. Most, however, used old materials and tents, scrimping their cash for harder times.

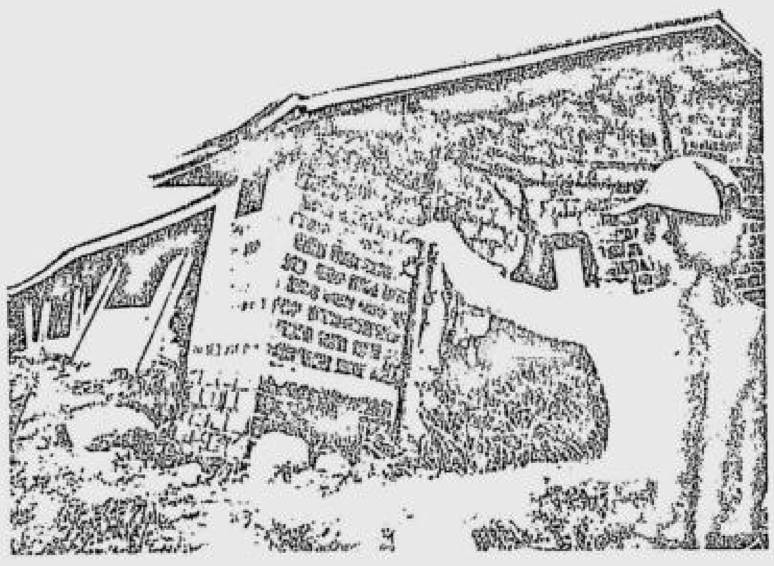
"*Talaga pong sising-sisi kami* (We regret it very much that we agreed to transfer)," Marcial said.

They had "no choice," they said, because their houses in Quarry were demolished ahead of the relocation project.

The promises of Subic Mayor Jeffrey Khonghun during a meeting in April 2006 seemed empty now, Marcial and Manangan said.

Khonghun's promises still ring hard: "We will relocate you to a beautiful place … we will ensure your safety … the site will have power and water supplies, and a school … you'll get individual titles)."

"He hasn't visited us here," Manangan said.



THIS is the second high school building that had collapsed at the Agusuhin relocation site in Subic, Zambales. Its 221 students moved to the elementary school building.
TONETTE T. OREJAS

Neither has President Macapagal-Arroyo. The President, however, has visited Hanjin's shipyard since the opening rites on May 26, 2006. Agusuhin is some 800 meters from the facility.

"She has not bothered to visit Agusuhin," said former Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II, chair of the Task Force Hanjin. The task force was formed by Gov. Amor Deloso to correct the situation at the relocation.

Graft?

Has Hanjin failed to meet its social responsibility even as its $1.684-billion project was the single biggest foreign direct investment in the Philippines in 2006?

Jong Yu Pyeong, Hanjin administrative manager, declined to answer the INQUIRER's questions when reached through his mobile phone in Korea. He said he was on "vacation."

Deloso considered Hanjin a "victim of pressures of politicians." He said former Gov. Vicente Magsaysay took care of the negotiations for the compensation of damages to settlers, using armed men to force the people out of Agusuhin.

Reports reaching Deloso said Hanjin released P500 million for the compensation.

But Magsaysay said it was not him but the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) that had negotiated with the residents to move out of Quarry.

"I just handed the money to the people," he said. Families whose houses were demolished were given a total P24 million, he added.

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said "negotiations were done by Hanjin through [one of its consultants]."

"Hanjin just furnished us with waivers," he said, referring to documents stating that the residents have agreed to leave the former US military reservation, which is within the Subic Bay Freeport.

As for the relocation project, Magsaysay said: "I didn't have any role there. I just helped transfer the people."

He said he was not privy to the P18-million purchase order by Hanjin for construction materials.

Khonghun, Deloso said, handled the P18 million for the construction of public utilities. The mayor, however, denied having a direct hand in the project, saying he only recommended the contractors when Hanjin asked him to refer qualified ones.

Deloso said two contractors admitted receiving P3 million each, while the last one got P1 million.

Losing control

How Hanjin lost control was surprising. It set the following "conditions" on its purchase order: "Work must be completed based on the approved plan and discussion of Hanjin Subic representatives" and "materials must strictly conform to the given (specifications), otherwise it will be rejected and returned without additional cost to the buyer."

Deloso said it was Khonghun who was on top of the relocation project and thus should account for the P18 million.

"Technically, the money belongs to the [SBMA]. It will be deducted by Hanjin from its rental to [the] SBMA," said Deloso.

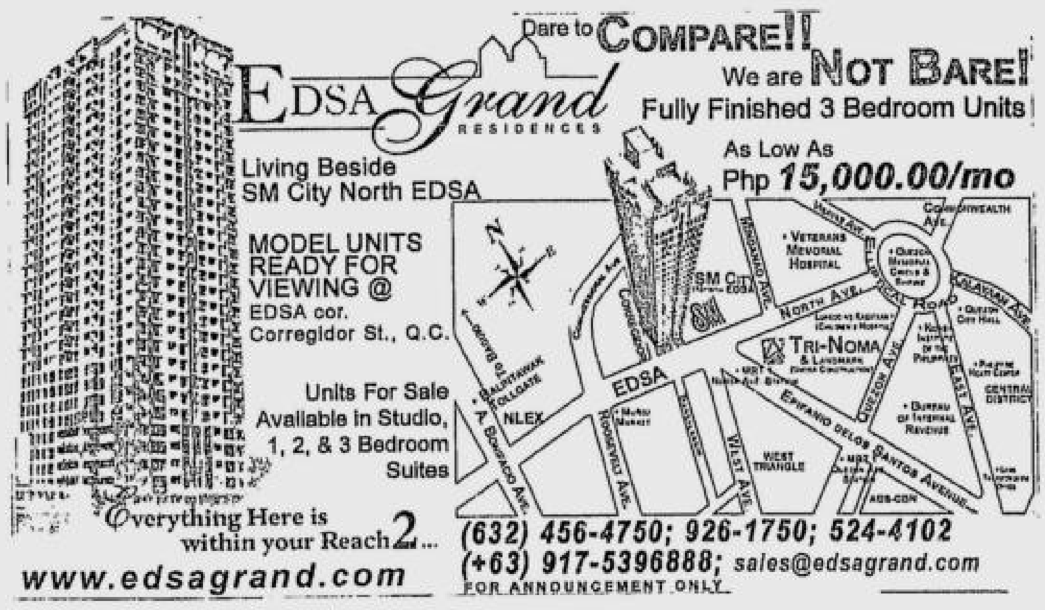
Another P8.5 million for 60 people with claims over a reforestation site occupied by Hanjin is said to be missing.

In this bungled relocation project, Deloso said the problem was not how to repair or complete the structures which Hanjin would not pay.

"Agusuhin appeared prone to landslides and we may find another place for the settlers there," the governor said.

Where the next site would be and how much it would cost to develop a safe, humane relocation would be the sole burden of the provincial government, he said.

"This is a social ill [of investments]," he said.



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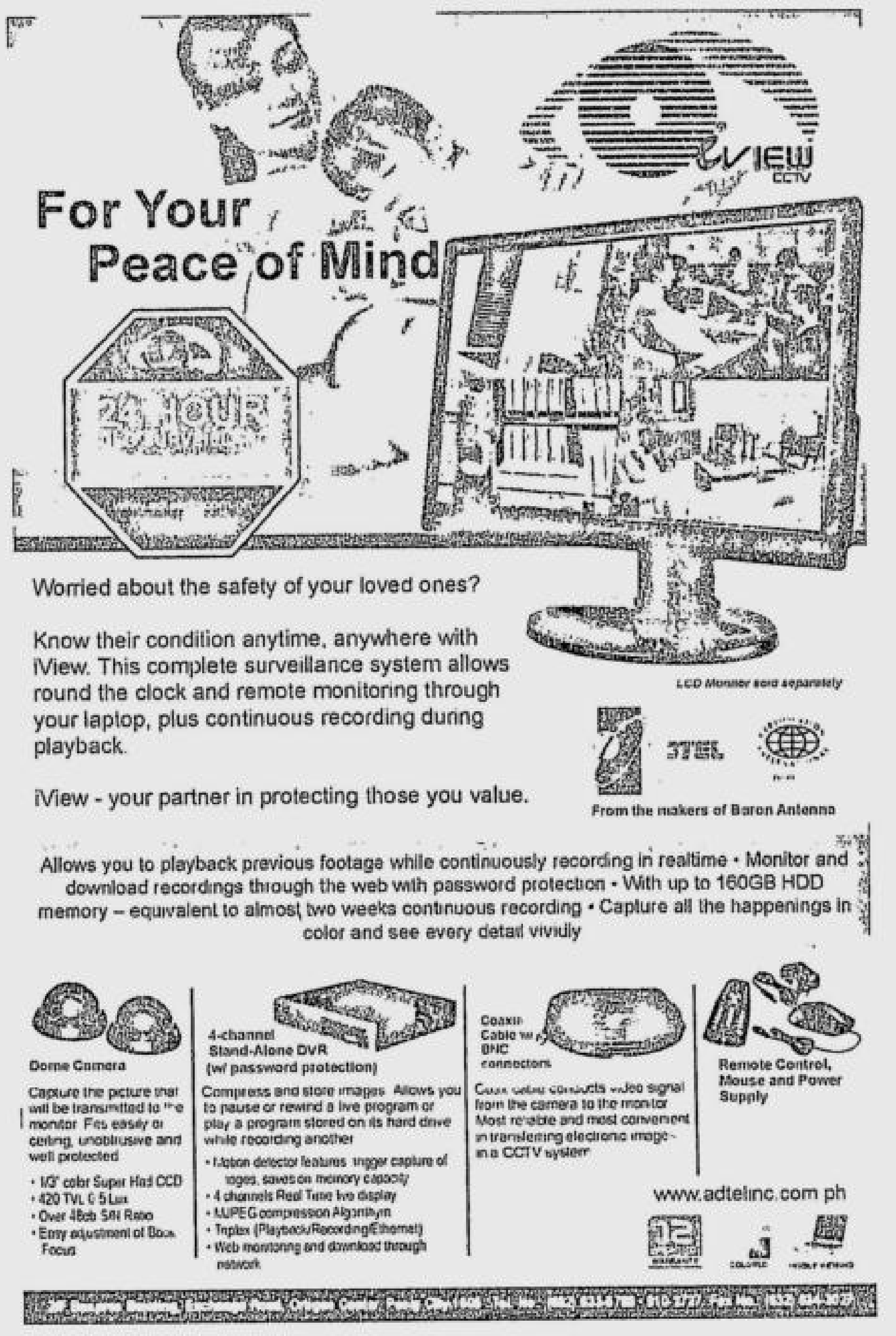

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PLDT

'City of Brotherly...

From page A1

About 60,000 people responded to the online survey—at www.travelandleisure.com—which ranked 25 cities in categories, including shopping, food, culture, and cityscape, said Amy Farley, senior editor at the magazine.

For unattractiveness, Philadelphia just beat out Washington DC and Dallas/Fort Worth for the bottom spot.

Miami and San Diego are home to the most attractive people, the poll found.

But Farley pointed out the results don't mean people in Philadelphia, also known as the "City of Brotherly Love," are ugly or the city is a bad place to visit.

"We were asking people to vote on attractiveness, not unattractiveness. Travel & Leisure editors believe there are a lot of attractive people in Philadelphia," she said.

"The relative attractiveness of its residents is only a minuscule factor in evaluating a city's merit."

Philadelphians' self-esteem has been undermined by national surveys showing they are among the fattest people in the United States.

The American Obesity Association ranked the city in the top 10 for overweight people every year between 2000 and 2005.

And sporting pride in a city known for the fierce loyalty of its fans has been hurt by not having had a national champion in any of its four main sports since the 76ers won the National Basketball Association title in 1983.

Reuters

Gloria visits Glorietta ...

From page A1

Ayala Land Inc., owner of the mall, placed at P100 million the amount needed to reconstruct Glorietta 2, the mall's damaged section.

"Although we are currently undertaking an assessment of the total financial impact of this incident, we initially estimate the physical damage to amount to approximately P100 million," ALI chief finance officer Jaime Ysmael said yesterday.

In a statement sent to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Ysmael said ALI did not expect "a significant revenue loss" arising from the blast, given the "small gross leasable area of Glorietta 2 relative to the total gross leasable area of the entire Glorietta complex."

Shopping spree

Glorietta 2 accounts for approximately one-fourth of the 185,000-square-meter Glorietta mall, which is divided into four sections, said an ALI employee, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Some 100 tenants are affected by the damage in Glorietta 2, the ALI employee said.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, who joined the early afternoon trip to the mall, said Ms Arroyo looked like she was enjoying herself. "It was her first shopping spree in a while," she told reporters.

But the President's mood turned solemn as she visited the site of the blast in Glorietta 2, entering through a door by the wall of white plywood between Subway Sandwiches and Le Coeur de France on the second floor.

"She said there should be enough assistance for all the victims and their families," Cabral said.

Cup of coffee

She said the President's trip to the mall was meant to assure the public that going to Glorietta was still safe. "She asked all Cabinet members: You just do what you've been doing before, like going to the mall with your families," Cabral said.

After going to the blast site, Ms Arroyo, in a pale blue ensemble, went down the escalator to the activity center and stopped for a cup of brewed coffee at the Coffee Experience. She had hers with cream and sugar, while Ayala wanted his black.

Ms Arroyo smiled and waved at the crowd of people who kept taking pictures on their camera phones. A man who introduced himself as a "balikbayan" shook her hand briefly before escorts spirited her away.

Temporary

City officials said the lifting of the preventive closure order was only temporary, pending the results of more building checks.

"The city engineer's office will need to conduct a thorough inspection of the entire Glorietta complex. For this, it will tap the assistance of civil and structural engineers from the private sector," said Joey Salgado, the city's public affairs chief.

"If during these inspections the city government finds basis to issue another closure order, it will do so in the interest of public safety," he said.

Two inspections

Salgado said city engineers, assisted by Ayala Land's own consultants, conducted two inspections of the mall on Monday night, first at 5:30 p.m. and later at 8:30 p.m.

After the two inspections, the city engineers "tended to agree with the findings of Ayala's structural engineers," Salgado said, but added that nothing was final yet.

Ysmael said that as of yesterday morning, the nature and cause of the explosion that damaged Glorietta 2 atrium and delivery bay were still being determined by police authorities.

"We are taking all possible measures to ensure that all affected by this incident are attended to with maximum care. Our top priority are the families of the fatalities and those injured who are currently being given proper medical treatment," he said.

Largest ...

From page A1

cember to build a biodiesel refinery with a capacity of 500,000 tons.

"They are (so) very confident in the Philippines and what PNOC does that they are willing to build the largest biodiesel refinery in the world and that speaks a lot," Abaya told Reuters without giving the cost or exact location for the refinery.

"They could have done it in Indonesia but they wanted it here so they know we are doing something right with jathropa."

The Philippines, almost entirely dependent on imported oil, wants biofuels to offset rising oil costs.

Jathropa

Jathropa is a drought-resistant perennial bush or small tree that analysts consider one of the most promising sources of biofuels. It can be planted on land with low irrigation and does not compete with food crops such as corn or rice.

Abaya said the Philippines wanted to develop 700,000 hectares for jathropa in four years as it expected it to be one of the world's major sources of alternative fuels.

The government is courting foreign investment to boost local biofuel production and has received $5 billion worth of investment proposals from more than 40 firms this year, which include Malaysia's Biogreen Energy Sdn Bhd, Norway's Norfuels, Korea's Korea Technology Industry Co. Ltd. and Ecosolution.

More investors

Many other companies are considering investing in biofuels in the Philippines, Abaya said.

"The majority would want to get into jathropa plantations.

They want control of the oil and some want refineries."

He said the investment proposals would require 4 million hectares of land but given the country's modest program, "we will prioritize certain investors and modestly pursue the plantation as we are not going to rapidly expand."

The government implemented a law in May requiring refiners to blend biofuels produced from local crops such as sugar and coconuts with gasoline and diesel to cut the country's $6-billion plus annual import bill.

Record palm oil prices and coconut oil prices, however, are turning buyer interest to jathropa, Abaya said.

Coco oil expensive

"Palm oil and coconut oil are very expensive right now but jathropa is way, way, way cheaper and you can produce at half the cost of coconut oil."

"Where do you go but to those who can produce jathropa competitively?" Abaya said.

"I am not saying we are the best but I know we have that competitive and comparative advantage to other countries."

Abaya said PNOC-AFC would attempt to blend jathropa-based biodiesel with regular fuel for testing in vehicles next month.

"Our aim is to get commercial amounts of biofuels and get it into the stream, into transport fuels so we are going to test a range of blends in the fourth quarter," Abaya said.

"We will put it in vehicles with higher blends, we intend to do that and prove that it works."

Reuters

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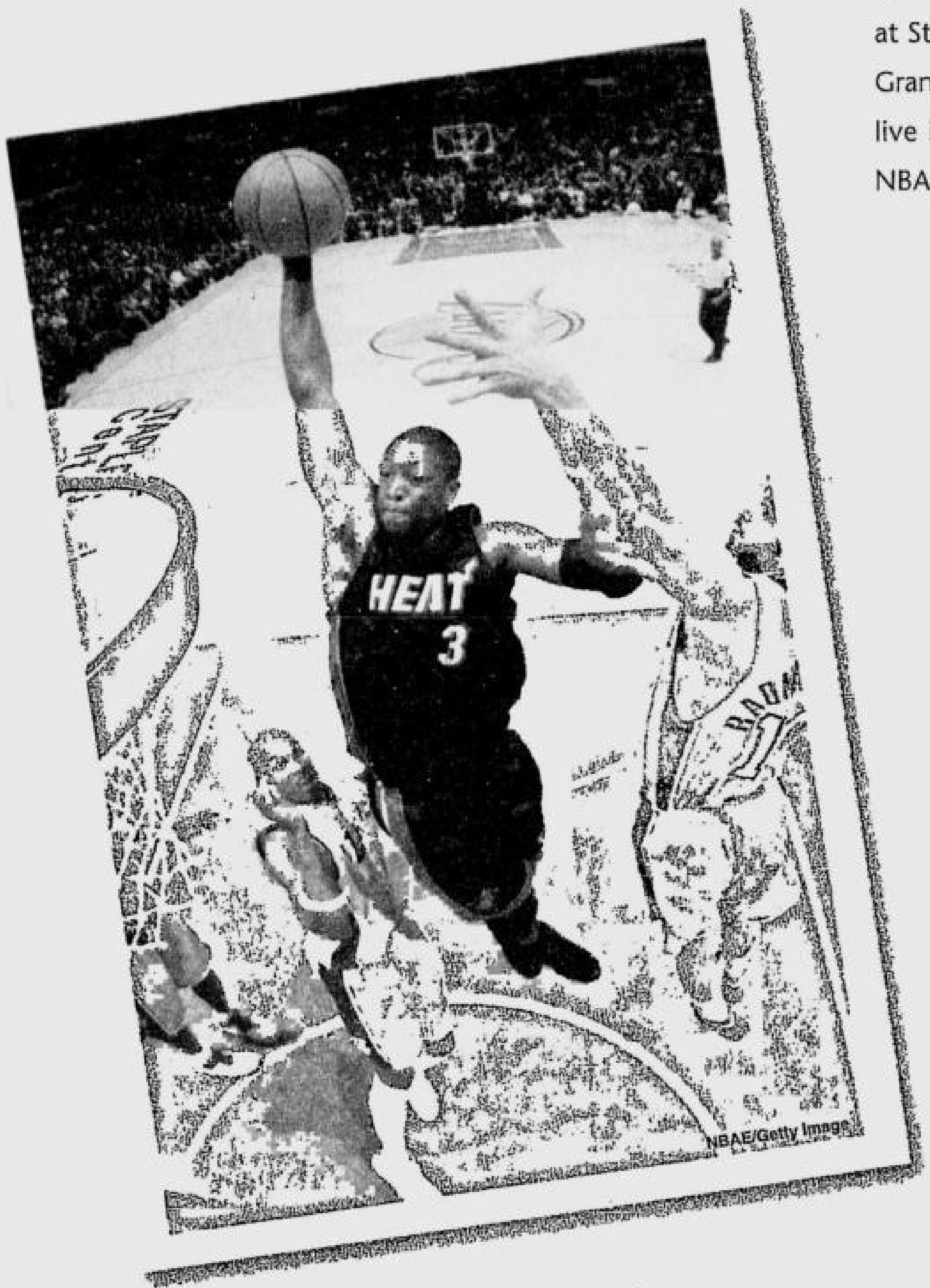
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What Drives You CALTEX

Trillanes insists Esperon behind Glorietta blast

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DETAINED SEN. ANTONIO Trillanes IV is standing pat on his claim that National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. masterminded the explosion at Glorietta 2.

Trillanes made the accusation hours after the deadly blast on Oct. 19. But he did not elaborate on it when he was interviewed by agents of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Oct. 20.

He said he would only reveal his information to an "independent, impartial and credible" investigating body.

Yesterday, members of Trillanes' staff said the ex-Navy officer would welcome a Senate inquiry into the matter because he refused to believe the PNP theory that the explosion was an accident.

They said Trillanes' position was that the gas leak angle was a "cover-up."

"As a person and now as an elected lawmaker, I do not just make statements out of pique or without anything to stand on, or to grandstand. I have information obtained from my own network of informants in the [AFP] and the intelligence community," Trillanes said in a statement issued by his office.

He said he had spent about three hours discussing the matter with CIDG agents in his detention cell at the Marine brig in Fort Bonifacio.

'Pogi' points

"But I simply cannot imagine them investigating Norberto Gonzales and Esperon once I give them everything I know. Did we ever have a truly impartial investigation conducted by the Arroyo administration?" he said.

Meanwhile, Sen. Panfilo Lacson assailed Sen. Gregorio Honasan for purportedly trying to earn "pogi points" with President Macapagal-Arroyo at the expense of his classmates at the Philippine Military Academy in the Senate.

"If your deal with [Ms] Arroyo goes as far as defending not just her but [also] all her key officials at all costs, please don't do it at your cavaliers' expense," Lacson said in a text message.

Lacson was referring to the alleged compromise deal between Honasan and Ms Arroyo during the recent elections, which supposedly allowed Honasan to campaign unimpeded, unlike Trillanes, who had to campaign behind bars.

Trillanes is being prosecuted for his leading role in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, in which Honasan was also implicated.

On Monday, Honasan criticized both Lacson and Trillanes for making antiadministration tirades regarding the Glorietta explosion without proof.

People's thirst

But Lacson retorted: "It's not politics that Sonny Trillanes and I are playing. We are just being consistent with our ideals and principles in line with our mandate to serve our people without fear or favor, and more importantly, without pretensions."

At a press briefing, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that while he could not claim that Trillanes was right, he believed that the latter would not talk about the government's purported involvement in the explosion without basis.

Pimentel said the people's thirst for the cause of the blast would only be slaked by an independent probe body. He said that despite the assistance of foreign experts in the inquiry, the public would continue to doubt the government team's credibility.

Glorietta blast likely an accident—PNP

From page A1

Avelino Razon said he briefed the NSC on an "accidental gas explosion" based on "facts at the scene."

"But we're not discounting the bomb blast theory," he said.

According to Puno, RDX, a component of the military explosive C4—and traces of which were found by police investigators at the blast site—is also found in aerosol and deodorants, which explains its presence in the area.

"We are now in a high level of certainty [of an accidental explosion]. I think we are just waiting for an absolute certainty that will happen," he said.

'All indicators'

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales also told reporters about the "high certainty" that the explosion that killed 11 people and wounded more than 100 was "a failure [in] public safety."

"The likelihood of an accidental explosion is there," Gonzales said. He said that while "terrorism and sabotage" could not yet be completely ruled out, "reports heavily show it's an accidental explosion."

"All the indicators are there," he said.

Razon said investigators were continuing to "look at all angles" but that "until now, after four days, we have yet to find bomb components."

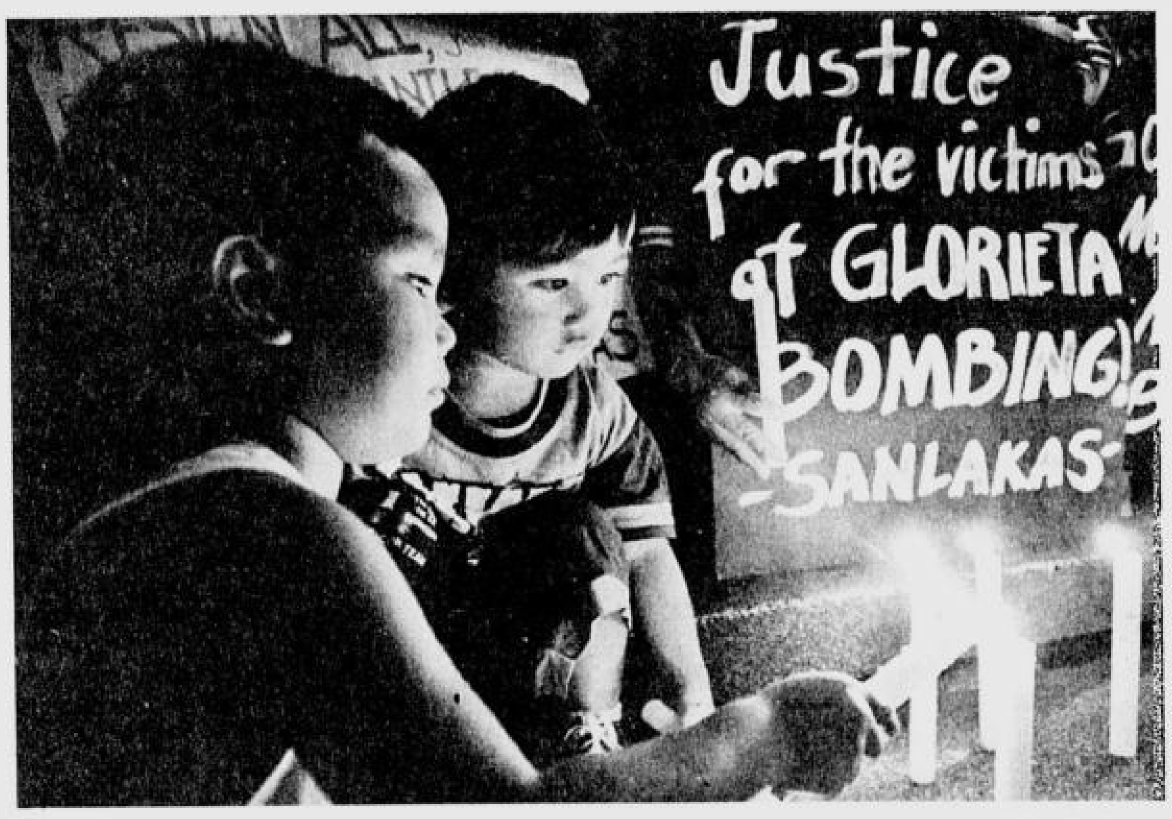
He said there was no crater to back the bomb theory, adding that what looked like a crater was actually "a stairwell to the basement."

"There's no tearing effect indicative of an explosion, and [subsequent tests] yielded negative for traces," Razon said.

A report will be released "as soon as possible," he said, "because we are also growing impatient, but we'd like to be thorough."

Independent probe

Puno said the PNP presentation at the meeting—which, he said, would also be shown to the media—showed a strong possibility that the explosion was caused by "underground structures" at Glorietta, including the diesel depot, and the presence of a methane gas concentration that could have abetted the blast.


Justice for the victims of GLORIETA BOMBING! -SANLAKAS-

CHILDREN light candles during a protest rally Monday night calling for justice for victims of the Glorietta blast. REUTERS

Puno welcomed the independent investigation being conducted by Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), the operator of the Glorietta shopping complex.

But he posed a caveat: "I don't think anybody can evaluate this unless they are experts in chemical analysis and forensic analysis."

Puno said police would also focus on the possible liability of ALI to determine whether the explosion constituted "willful negligence" and "criminal liability."

He said police were in the final stages of putting together the pieces of evidence to make a final determination of the cause of the blast.

Puno said the terrorism angle was also discussed at the meeting, which "gave everyone a clear idea of where we are."

No IED

He said the accusation of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV that Gonzales and Esperon had masterminded the explosion was not taken up at length because "investigations being conducted by our experts show that it's farfetched." *(See related story on Page A1.)*

At Camp Crame, Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), told reporters that investigators had found no trace of an improvised explosive device (IED) at the Glorietta 2 basement.

Barias said teams from the PNP Bomb Data Center, Explosive Ordnance Division and Scene of the Crime Operations had completed the postblast investigation of the basement that started on Sunday.

He said the teams had tried to find "relative components" that could have triggered the explosion, but found no switches, trigger, power source such as a battery, initiators such as blasting caps, casing, compartment, or main explosives.

He said no crater was found—a claim that was backed by Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman, director of the Southern Police District.

The NCRPO quoted petrochemical experts who had examined the diesel tank at the basement as saying that it "did not follow the standard cylindrical structure of a gas container and may have caused the uneven distribution of pressure that might have caused the explosion."

In response, ALI spokesperson Alfonso Reyes said the shape of the tank conformed with safety standards and that it was covered by an occupancy permit.

Reyes said ALI welcomed third-party independent experts who would want to study the theories behind the cause of the explosion.

He also pointed out that the PNP inquiry had yet to be concluded.

"We have nothing to hide. We are cooperating fully with those conducting the investigation. Let's wait for the conclusive report," Reyes said.

'They are wrong'

The other officials present at the NSC meeting were Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, and former President Fidel Ramos.

In her opening statement delivered in Filipino, Ms Arroyo raised the need to review the government's antiterror campaign and other programs concerning security.

"Enemies of the state think we will easily succumb to fear, chaos and conflict. They are wrong. We will be united in pushing for progress, peace and stability of the nation, and a better life for every Filipino. The Philippines is already moving forward, so let us not allow ourselves to be deterred," she said, adding:

"Although the investigation at Glorietta is not yet finished, we need to beef up our efforts to ensure safety in the country."

Ms Arroyo also said what she wanted accomplished were a strengthened police and military capability, a completed peace process with insurgents, and a firm security alliance with other nations.

Task force

Puno said the President had instructed police "to leave no stone unturned and probe everything."

He said Ms Arroyo had asked for a list of all planned actions after the completion of the investigation report.

"In the remote possibility that [the explosion] was caused by terrorists," police are required to recommend measures to prevent a recurrence, he said.

Puno said the task force assigned to look into the explosion consisted of an anti-arson group and PNP personnel, "with advice and technical support" from Australian forensic experts and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"This is a very broad-based forensic group that made the study. I think the conclusions are very reliable, and there's a high level of confidence in these findings," he said.

To back the "accidental explosion" theory, Puno talked of "a confluence of different structures that independently might be harmless [but] when brought together constitute a threat to public safety."

"We are going to review the standards for public inspection to include things like these," he said, adding that the findings would "stand scrutiny."

Puno also announced the formation of a task force that would conduct a safety inspection of basements of buildings and malls. He noted that previously, safety inspections had been limited to structural and fire hazards.

Leave it to PNP

The Army is leaving it to the PNP to discuss the explosion.

"Just let any statements related to the Glorietta incident come from the PNP Bomb Data Center so as not to muddle the investigation. It's difficult to issue statements prematurely," the Army spokesperson, Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres, said on the phone.

Torres said the PNP would collate and analyze all the reports of various agencies participating in the inquiry "so that it will be a clear statement."

The Army's reticence apparently stemmed from an INQUIRER report in yesterday's issue that police on Sunday prevented two men claiming to be from the Army from planting evidence at the blast site.

Torres declined to elaborate on the story, except to say that the PNP Bomb Data Center chief had told him the report was "not true."

He said the "last presence" of the Army's Explosive and Ordnance Division at the blast site was on Sunday morning.

On Saturday, the Army chief, Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, ordered an inventory of its C4 plastic bombs.

Yano also directed Army personnel to take measures to ensure that there would be no pilferage of the explosive.

On Monday, Torres said the Army's C4 explosives were all accounted for. *With reports from Alcuin Papa, Nikko Dizon and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

UP profs dispute methane gas angle

From page A1

diesel up, cause it to vaporize, and explode," Dela Cruz said yesterday in an interview.

But then again, he said, "there should be a sufficient amount of [methane to cause the explosion], and then a spark should be present to cause the ignition."

Police had theorized that the explosion could have originated from an "accumulation of methane" at the basement of Glorietta 2 as an offshoot of a malfunctioning sewage system.

The heat from the motors, ventilator fans and automatic switches could have ignited the methane, and triggered an eruption of a 3,500-liter diesel tank in the basement, investigators had said.

But according to professor Wilfredo Jose, heat alone cannot trigger the explosion of methane, unless the heat is "very high, like if it's greater than 110 degrees Celsius."

Speaking with the INQUIRER in the same interview, Jose explained that methane could explode if sparked by static electricity, flint, or a match, among others.

"Methane can explode, but I can't say how strong it is. It all depends on the amount of methane," he said.

Diesel doesn't explode

Dela Cruz added that heat alone could not trigger the diesel tank to explode.

"The diesel has to be [deliberately] heated up so it would vaporize and explode. What explodes is the vapor. The diesel, which is liquid, doesn't explode, but it may cause fire," he said.

To ascertain how the explosion at Glorietta 2 caused such a huge damage to the building, several factors have to be considered, Dela Cruz said.

"The most significant ones are the amount of methane generated, and the integrity of the enclosure," he said. "The damage is too big to attribute it to methane explosion. But this is just a conjecture."

The two professors refused to speculate what type of explosion could have caused such a huge damage.

Dela Cruz said the UP College of Engineering could help in the investigation of the explosion, and said he could recommend some experts on the matter.

"Even the college would [agree to] assist if called upon, as some sort of an impartial observer or party. We can assist in finding the right experts," he said.

'How I wish'

On the remarks of the two UP chemical engineering professors, Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, had this to say: "How I wish they were with us so they could have looked at the place for themselves."

Barias said the Glorietta 2 basement lacked ventilation—a condition, he said, that could have led to an increase in temperature and accumulation of diesel vapor and fumes.

"Based on the statement of maintenance [personnel], there isn't enough ventilation to facilitate air circulation on the side of the basement that houses the fuel tank," he said.

Barias also said police investigators were still waiting for the technical opinion of experienced mechanical engineers to discover the cause of the explosion.

He said investigators were likewise awaiting the test results and evaluation of metallurgic forensic experts of evidence found in the basement.

Still suspended

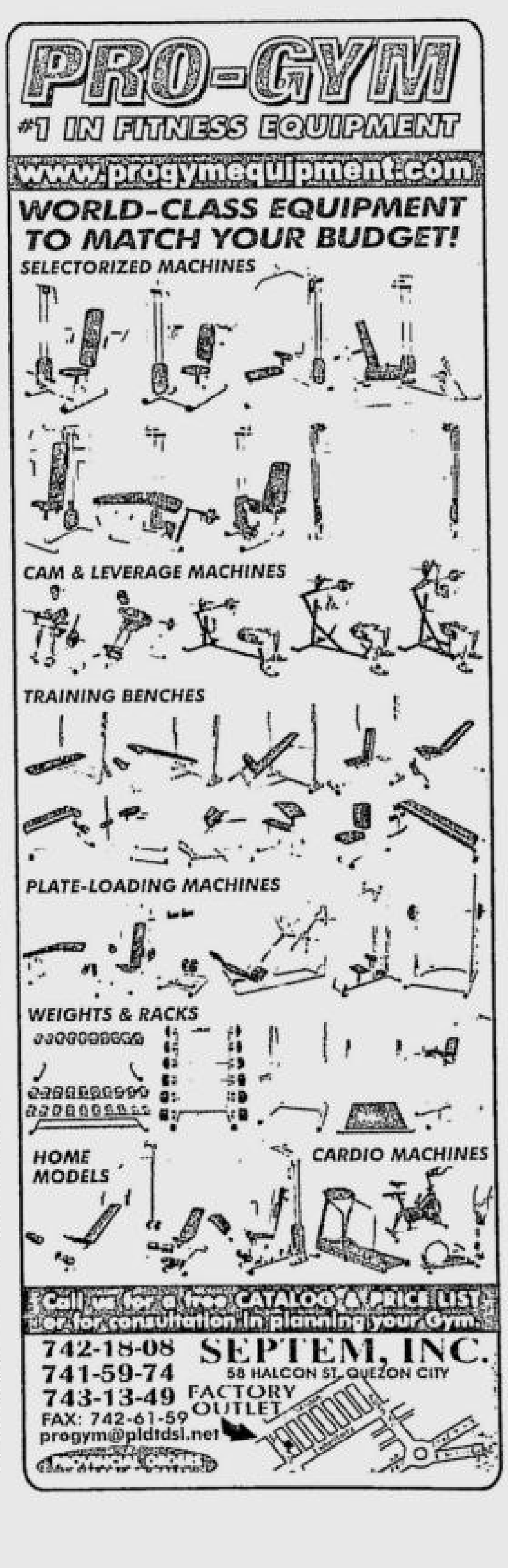
In Makati, the city government said it was not lifting the temporary suspension of operations at the Glorietta complex despite a request by its operator, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI).

Building official Nelson Morales, an engineer, said the city government would have to conduct its own investigation of the entire complex, and that for it to do so, Glorietta must remain closed.

Yesterday, however, the complex remained open.

Morales said the city government could not grant ALI's request that the suspension order be lifted even after the latter's own inspection of the structural soundness of the complex and the mechanical, electrical, sanitary and plumbing facilities.

"Pending the result of our investigation and other government agencies, we regret to inform you that the temporary suspension order cannot be lifted yet," Morales said in a letter to ALI. *With reports from Alcuin Papa and Julie M. Aurelio*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Lintang Bedol may spend Christmas in jail

Arrest of ex-poll chief ordered

By Beverly T. Natividad

FORMER MAGUINDANAO POLL SUPERVIsor Lintang Bedol may spend Christmas in jail after the Commission on Elections (Comelec) issued a warrant of arrest against him.

The Comelec's law department chief Alioden D. Dalaig has directed Chief Supt. Joel R. Goltiao, the Philippine National Police regional director of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, to immediately implement the warrant of arrest on Bedol.

Bedol is expected to serve his six-month jail sentence at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

The arrest warrant stemmed from the Comelec's contempt charge against Bedol last Aug. 7. It will be recalled that the poll body had unanimously sentenced Bedol to six months and imposed a P1,000 fine for indirect contempt following his failure to appear before the Comelec despite repeated summons to answer questions on alleged cheating in Maguindanao.

Other grounds were his act of openly challenging the Comelec to file charges against him and his loss of important Maguindanao election documents for the last midterm elections.

The sentence on Bedol became final and executory after the Comelec rejected his motion for reconsideration last month.

The Maguindanao poll supervisor's appeal to the Supreme Court is still pending, but the high court has already denied his petition for a temporary restraining order to stop his imprisonment.

PCGG chief scored over graft reports

By Jerry E. Esplanada

A "STERN-LOOKING" PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo has reprimanded the chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government due to reports of alleged corruption at the agency tasked to go after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and his cronies.

No less than PCGG chair Camilo Sabio made the disclosure at yesterday's news conference at the agency's Mandaluyong City headquarters.

According to Sabio, the President "called my attention" to a recent corruption survey of the Social Weather Stations which said that the PCGG was the least sincere in fighting corruption among all government agencies.

The President had told Sabio to "do something about it" during their brief encounter at the luncheon birthday party for Cocofinance Director Emiliana Jabola held recently at Bahay Pangarap near Malacañang.

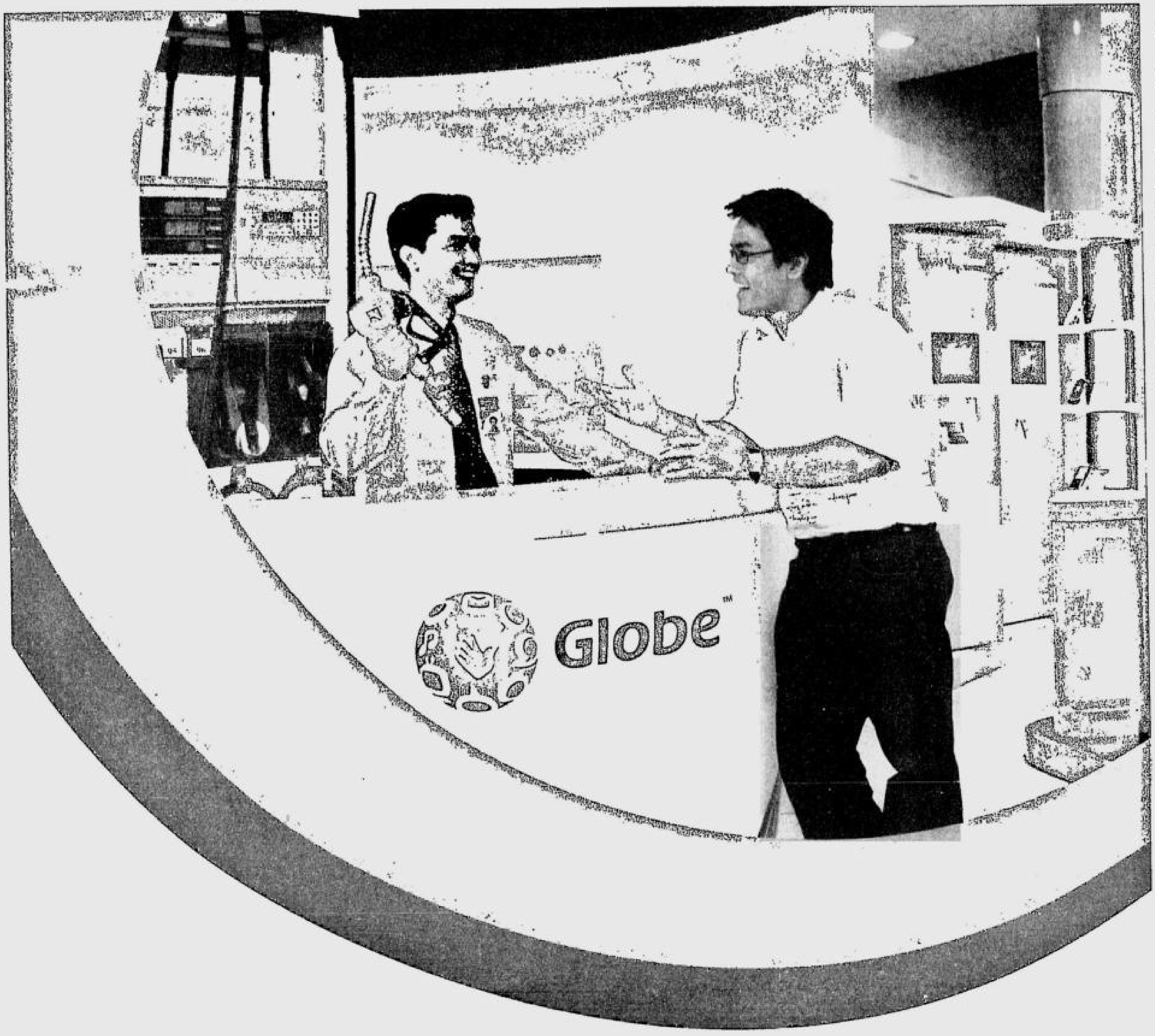
"Of course, *galit siya ... Baka di na matiis ni Presidente ang mga* news about PCGG ... (She's angry. The President may not be able to stomach news about PCGG) She's not happy about the situation," said Sabio, former head of the National Anti-Poverty Commission and Presidential Adviser for Constitutional Reforms.

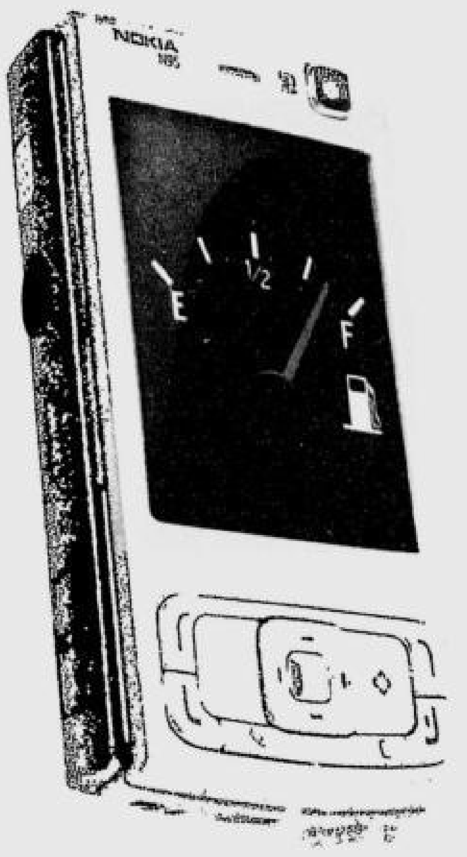
The SWS survey, conducted from March 4 to May 11, was the seventh of an annual series conducted by the SWS with the Makati Business Club.

Of the 29 government agencies rated on their sincerity in fighting corruption, 11 got a higher positive rating, 16 were "not as bad" and only PCGG "got worse."

Out of the five agencies with "poor sincerity," only PCGG's rating slipped further in the negative.

Of those surveyed, 24 percent believed in the PCGG's sincerity, 32 percent were undecided while 43 percent said it was insincere, giving the agency a net sincerity rating of minus 19.





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MMDA seeks extension of dump deadline

Six-month reprieve asked in the absence of alternative sites

By Julie M. Aurelio, Allison W. Lopez, Jeannette I. Andrade and Kristine L. Alave

GIVE US SIX MORE MONTHS, PLEASE.

An official of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos yesterday asked the Rizal provincial government to accommodate trash from the metropolis for six more months, saying they have yet to identify alternative dumps.

"MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando has requested Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III to extend the Thursday deadline, since it is too soon," MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said in a phone interview.

If Ynares refuses, Nacianceno said the MMDA would have to redirect garbage haulers to other dumps in San Pedro, Laguna; Clark, Pampanga, and Payatas in Quezon City.

"However, the most important thing is for the extension to be granted," the MMDA official said.

Ynares the other day told the INQUIRER that he was allowing the dumping of garbage from Metro Manila in Rizal's 19-hectare landfill in Rodriguez town only until Thursday.

Starting Friday, the MMDA would have to look for a new dumping ground because the Rodriguez landfill was for the province's exclusive use, he added.

Abalos also urged Ynares to extend Metro Manila's use of the Rodriguez dump for at least six months until the MMDA finds a suitable replacement.

With All Saints' Day and the Christmas season coming up, Metro Manila mayors expect an increase in the garbage generated by residents, making their request for a longer grace period more urgent, Abalos said.

Caught unaware

"We are not prepared for this. We were caught totally unaware," he said.

Several Metro mayors interviewed by the INQUIRER, however, were not as worried.

"We have our own controlled dump but of course, we ask the people to throw their garbage properly to avoid similar problems in the future," said Jimmy Castillano, spokesperson for Las Piñas Mayor Vergel Aguilar.

The cities of Muntinlupa and Parañaque also dispose of their waste in a controlled dump in San Pedro, Laguna.

However, Parañaque City Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. pointed out that a problem could arise if the other cities also begin throwing their garbage in the San Pedro facility.

"If the other cities also throw their trash at the San Pedro facility, there's a possibility that it might be closed down too," he said.

For his part, acting Manila Mayor Isko Moreno said the city would also not be affected because it uses the Navotas dump.

"There's no problem as far as Manila is concerned. Garbage collection here is smooth and we will not be affected by the closure of the Rodriguez landfill," Moreno said in Filipino.

According to the MMDA, the Rodriguez landfill accommodates one-third of the 8,000 cubic meters of garbage produced daily by residents in Metro Manila.

In the other northern and central parts of the metropolis, only Caloocan City is still dumping its garbage in Rizal province.

Used to dump in Laguna

A staff of the city public information office, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the matter, said they used to divert their trash to the MMDA-controlled dump in Laguna whenever there was a problem with the Rodriguez landfill.

The cities of Malabon and Navotas, on the other hand, use the Tanza town sanitary landfill at the boundary of Navotas and Bulacan. Valenzuela and Quezon City operate their own respective landfills.

Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad said he would meet with other Metro Manila mayors to find a solution to the matter.

He earlier chided the MMDA for passing the buck on the issue of garbage disposal to local governments, which he said, is the agency's job.

Trinidad previously asked three of the city's major garbage haulers to look for an alternative dump.

According to him, Pasay City alone produces 1,600 cubic meters of garbage daily.

Abalos, meanwhile, asked Fernando to prioritize the construction of a dump for Metro Manila so that local governments would not be dependent on Rizal province for their garbage disposal needs.

Abalos and Pasig City environment chief Raquel Naciongayo said the MMDA was slow in its duty to solve the garbage problem.

According to the Mandaluyong mayor, local governments give the MMDA a "significant portion" of their internal revenue allotment to solve and implement traffic rules, flood control programs and garbage disposal.

Naciongayo, chief of the Pasig City Environment and Natural Resources Office, said the city would have a problem on its hands if Rizal province refuses to receive the metropolis' waste.

It is "high time" the MMDA seriously looks

MMDA/ A22

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UP fraternity man seeks stop to hearings on Mendez death

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A STUDENT AND SIGMA RHO FRATERNITY member yesterday asked the court to stop the hearings being conducted by University of the Philippines officials in connection with the charges filed against him and several other students for the death of suspected hazing victim, Cris Anthony Mendez.

In his petition, Juan Paolo Fajardo, a senior from the UP College of Law, asked Judge Jose G. Paneda of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 220 to issue a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction against several university officials.

They included UP President Emerlinda Roman, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Elizabeth Enriquez, the chairman and two members of the Student Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT), Diliman Legal Office chief Ma. Ruz Raval and DLO university legal counsels Percival Cortez and Carlo Florendo Castro.

Fajardo said that on Oct. 11, he received three formal charges with summonses through the SDT.

The first administrative charge, he said, was in connection with his alleged participation in "initiation rites, including physical and hazing rites..., thereby resulting in or causing physical injury to and ultimately the death of Cris Anthony Mendez."

Fajardo added that he and 10 other students were charged with violating rule 1 section 1 (B) of the university's Revised Rules and Regulations Governing Fraternities, Sororities, and Other Student Organizations.

He and 13 other Sigma Rho officers and members were charged a second time, this time for participating in the same unauthorized activities in violation of rule 1 section 1 (I) of the rules and regulations.

Fajardo was charged for the third time, with four other students and fraternity members, for bringing Mendez to the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center and "hastily" leaving the premises without giving information on the cause of the student's death.

Mendez, a public administration student of the UP, was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. An autopsy report said he received a heavy beating before his death.

Fajardo said the "formal charges" against him were not true and were "feloniously falsified," pointing out that he was never notified "nor participated in any alleged preliminary investigation involving the subject incident."

DID YOU KNOW

TODAY, Oct. 24, is the 133rd birth anniversary of Rafael Palma who was born in Tondo, Manila. The founder of the newspaper El Renacimiento was appointed in 1909 to serve in the second Philippine Commission. He was elected to the Senate in 1916, representing Laguna, Manila, Rizal and Bataan provinces.

The following year, he was appointed Secretary of Interior, becoming the first official to hold legislative and executive positions concurrently.

In 1925, Palma left the government service and became the president of the University of the Philippines. He passed away in 1939.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Safety of Manila voters, teachers with poll duties assured

By Allison W. Lopez

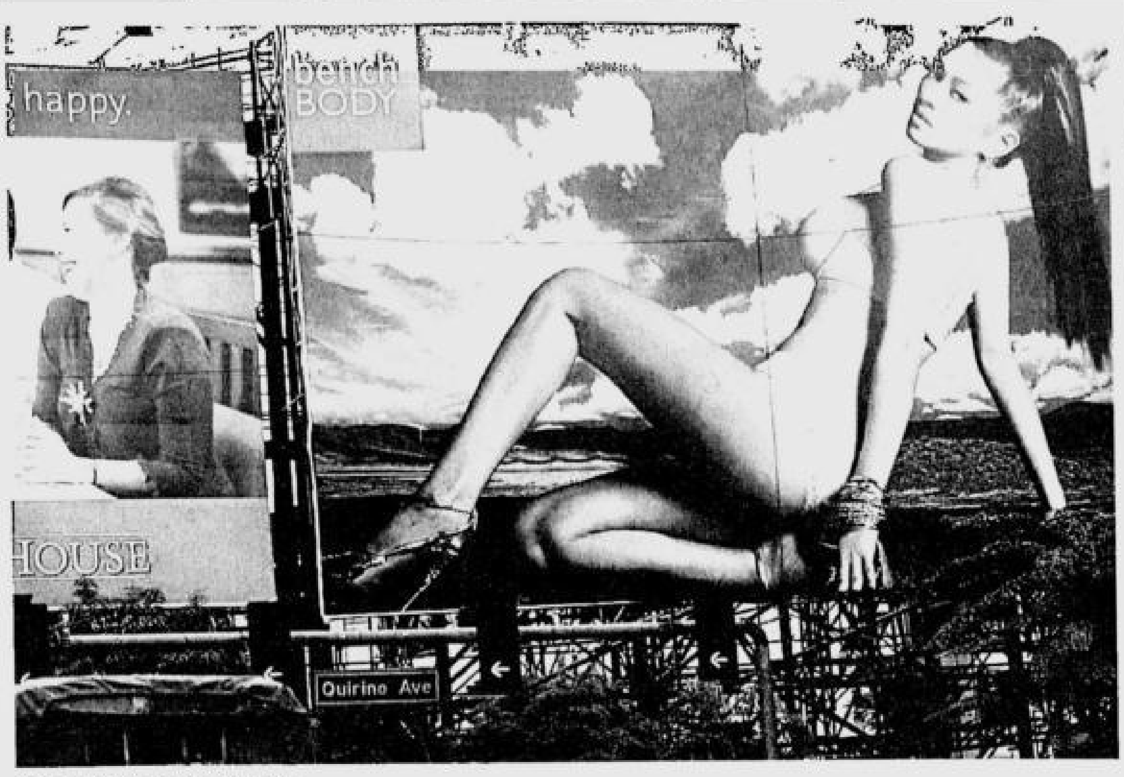
MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM yesterday assured the safety of the city's voters and school teachers during the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 29.

In a statement, Lim said the Manila Police District, headed by Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, will provide security to public school teachers. Earlier, the teachers asked the city government to ensure their safety as they perform their poll duties.

"As front liners in practically all electoral exercises, the country's public school teachers have been the subject of harassment, unfair accusations of cheating and dishonesty, even violence and death. We should protect them," the mayor stressed.

The Teachers' Dignity Coalition composed of public school teachers' associations said educators have always been among the casualties during elections.

The City of Manila has a total of 96 polling precincts, 92 of which are located in public elementary and high schools.



BACK IN BUSINESS
Huge billboards can be spotted again at the corner of Quirino Avenue corner South Superhighway in Manila. The Department of Public Works and Highways earlier initiated a crackdown on billboards after a huge advertising sign on Edsa Guadalupe fell on a van, killing a man last year. ROGER MARGALLO

Cleanup of Navotas waterways ongoing

By Nancy C. Carvajal

IN ANTICIPATION OF RAINS ON the days reserved to honor the dead next month, a campaign to clean up the waterways to prevent flooding near the cemeteries has started in Navotas City, according to Mayor Toby Tiangco.

"We are ready in case it rains on those days and the water rises," Tiangco said.

Pagasa recently announced that the rainy season had started and cooler weather had set in.

Tiangco said improvements on the drainage systems leading to all cemeteries in the city began in the first week of October.

The mayor said a rerouting system would also be in effect during the two-day holiday from Nov. 1-2 to ensure the smooth flow of vehicular traffic.

Since no vehicles will be allowed in the city's cemeteries, parking areas would be provided. The city's Public Order and Safety Office will soon identify areas near the cemeteries where vehicle owners could safely park their cars.

"To avoid confusion, we will mark areas where parking is not allowed," the mayor said.

Tiangco said vendors would be prohibited inside the cemeteries so as not to hamper the flow of people visiting their departed loved ones.

The city's Environmental Police and Task Force Disiplina personnel were also ordered to catch anybody violating Ordinance 2003-12 or the City's Anti-Littering Ordinance.

Litterbugs, the mayor added, would be fined from P200 to P1,000.

Tiangco said that just like the previous year, the liquor ban and bringing of deadly weapons and gambling inside the cemeteries would still be imposed.

Loud music and inappropriate behavior, like dancing while inside the cemeteries are also prohibited.

Free computer courses for Manilans

By Allison W. Lopez

THEY MAY NOT HAVE COMputers in their homes, but even Manila's poor residents will know how to use one after enrolling in a free training program.

Vice Mayor Isko Moreno said the Isko Moreno Computer Learning Center (Iscom), which opens at 3 p.m. today at Liwasang Balagtas, Beata Street, has 15 new computer terminals equipped with broadband Internet for those who want to improve their computer skills.

Located inside a 40-foot container van, the center may be moved to another location depending on the need.

In the past, the center was located at the Tondo Sports Complex.

There are about 3,000 beneficiaries of the program, mostly students, out-of-school youth, teachers and policemen in the six years it has been in existence since Moreno's term as councilor.

The city's districts will soon have their own centers, he said.

Mayor Alfredo Lim, meanwhile, hailed the recent graduation of 920 out-of-school youth who finished various vocational courses of the Free Livelihood and Employment Skills Training Program offered by the City College of Manila (CCM) and the Technical Education Skills Development Authority.

Lim awarded 14 outstanding CCM students who took up courses in electronics, reflexology, cosmetology, refrigeration/air-conditioning technology as their fields of specialization during the three-month intensive program.

METROBRIEFS

Fake Viagra seized

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation recently seized some P20,000 worth of counterfeit Viagra tablets and arrested three persons in entrapment operations in Quiapo, Manila and Quezon City. Elfren Meneses, chief of the NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division, said they conducted the operations after receiving a complaint from representatives of Pfizer Inc. which manufactures the anti-erectile dysfunction medicine. Charges for violation of Republic Act 8203 or the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs would be filed against suspects Jerome Boreros, 27, of Cogeo, Rizal; Stephen John Tan, 34, of Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City; and Antonio Medrano, of Malibay Street, Pasay City. Investigation showed that the suspects sold fake Viagra tablets by placing advertisements in a popular direct-selling magazine. After confirming the information, NBI agents conducted entrapment operations which led to the suspects' arrest.

Tina G. Santos

Police official charged

THE CHIEF of the Manila Police District's Anti-Carnapping Unit is facing child abuse charges at the Manila Regional Trial Court after he reportedly beat up a 13-year-old boy who got into a fight with his son last June. Assistant City Prosecutor Amalia Gumapos Ricablanca recommended the filing of charges against Senior Insp. Edgardo Ronquillo for violation of Sec. 10 of Republic Act 7610 or the Child Abuse Law after the victim filed a complaint. According to the complainant, he was playing basketball with a group of boys when Ronquillo's son came along and gave him a dagger look. The two boys fought and when Ronquillo's son later reported the incident to his father, the latter gathered four other policemen who allegedly dragged, strangled, kicked and slapped the victim. Another witness said Ronquillo also pointed his gun at the boy and eventually detained him at the MPD headquarters on United Nations Avenue for five hours without any formal charges. After his release, the boy was brought to the Ospital ng Maynila which certified that he had abrasions on his neck. Ronquillo could not be reached for comment because he was "on leave" from work. A bail of P80,000 was set by the prosecutor for the respondent.

Allison W. Lopez

SM offers free training

FEMALE high school graduates will undergo training in Punlaan School in San Juan City under the SM Foundation Inc. scholarship program. In a memorandum of agreement signed by SM Foundation executive director Deddie Sy, executive director for education Carmen Linda Atayde and Punlaan school executive director Luz Filmer, SMF will shoulder the tuition of the scholars who will pursue a two-year dual training program in Food and Beverage Services. Courses offered in Punlaan are accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

A death on the street where I live

By Fernando del Mundo

EVERY DAY AT AROUND 7:30 a.m., a stocky coconut juice vendor plied his trade on Mayamaǹ Street at UP Village in Quezon City.

On a normal day, the middle class neighborhood is usually quiet.

Yesterday, cries of "*Huwag po! Huwag po!* (Please, don't! Please, don't!)," echoed in the area.

A young woman in an apartment was awakened by the screams. From her bedroom window, she saw a man wearing a baseball cap hurriedly jump on an easy rider bicycle after apparently attacking the vendor with a knife.

As the assailant pedaled away, he opened a tattered green umbrella to protect himself from a steady rain, said the woman, who did not wish to be named.

When she turned to look in the opposite direction, she saw a group of tricycle drivers milling around the vendor who was lying face down on the sidewalk beside a parked car.

Blood had seeped from his body and trickled down to the rain-soaked pavement.

The victim was later identified by police as Edgar Sumlayod, between 30-35 years old, and a resident of NIA Road, Barangay Piñyahan, Quezon City.

He fell around 30 meters from where he had an altercation with the assailant and where one of his slippers lay—evidence of where it all started. The other slipper came off his other foot midway to where he lay.

A rubber sandal belonging to his attacker was on the opposite side of the street.

The woman then telephoned police. No one had dared touch the body, or the cart that contained his merchandise in two Styrofoam boxes.

UP Village Barangay Captain Virgilio Ferrer quickly ordered the road closed to facilitate police investigation.

The woman said she thought that had there been one person in the group of kibitzers bold enough to lift the man and bring him immediately to a hospital, he would have survived.

Supt. Oscar Palisoc, the area station police chief, said the man was stabbed four times—twice in the chest, once in the back and the side.

"The wounds were fatal. Death could have been instantaneous," Palisoc said.

Police investigators went through a wallet the man carried in his dark-colored short pants. It did not contain a lot, apart from a few pesos and religious pictures.

A tricycle driver said the man roamed the neighborhood in the mornings before stationing himself at the nearby Quezon City Hall.

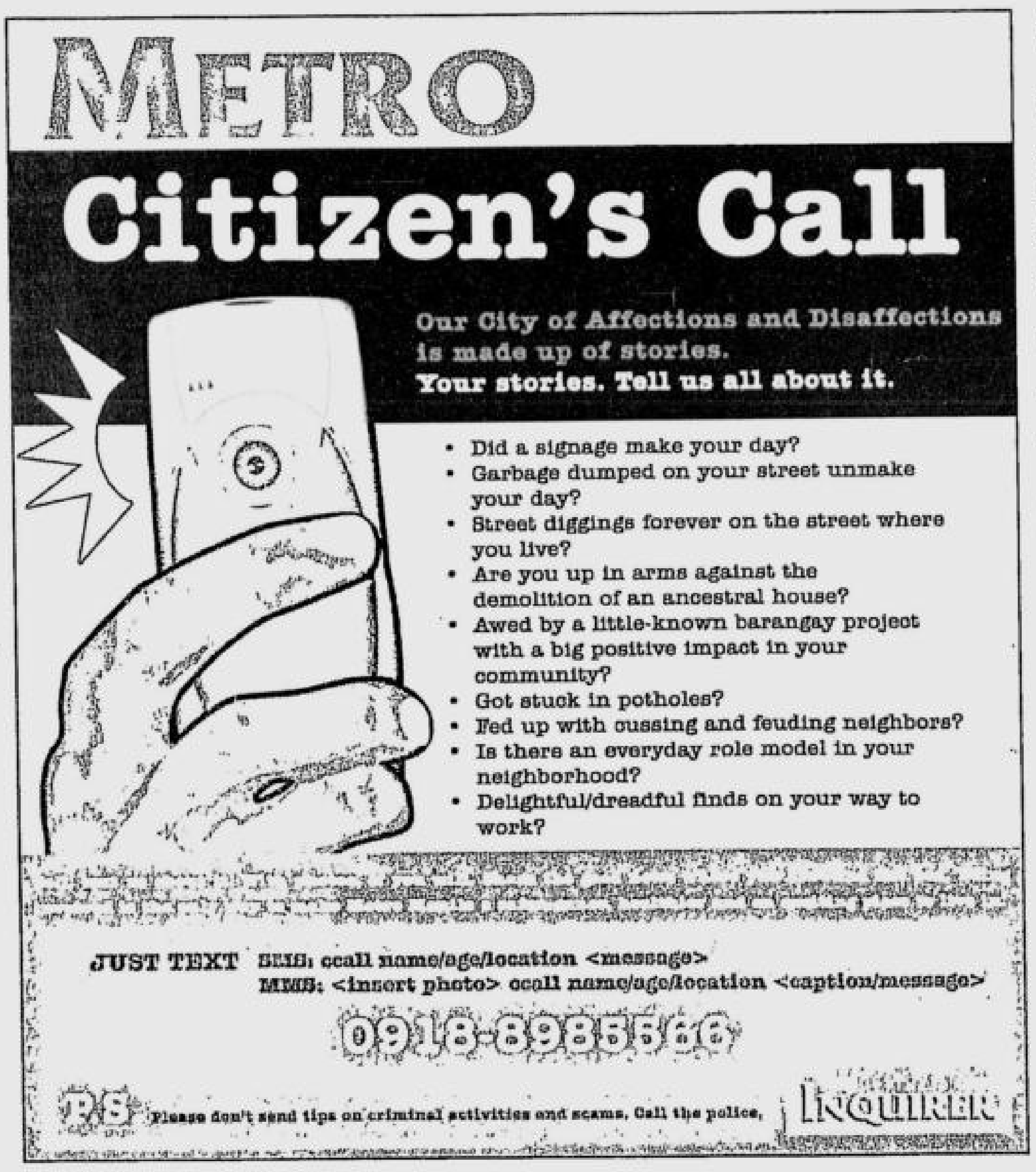
"He is known in the area because he usually had fits of epilepsy," the driver said.

Fellow vendors who arrived at the scene of the stabbing said the victim lived alone in a depressed area off NIA Road near the Bureau of Internal Revenue headquarters and that he left a family in Samar province.

The word was that he had a quarrel with his attacker, who in all likelihood was also a vendor.

"It was probably a turf war," said Palisoc. *With a report from Kenneth M. del Rosario*

SCENE of the Crime Operations policemen examine the area in UP Village where a coconut juice vendor was killed as he pleaded for his life. Police say the man, known to vendors in the Quezon City Hall area because he used to have epileptic fits, was stabbed four times as he was peddling his wares. F. DEL MUNDO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INQUIRER

Councilor's house burns down in Binondo fire

By Tina G. Santos

THREE PERSONS WERE HURT IN A fire that razed 20 houses, including that of actor and Manila Councilor Yul Servo in Binondo yesterday morning.

Fire officials said that the injured, who were identified as Armando Figuroa, 51; Mauricio Fermin, 63, and Chris Gatchalian, 24, sustained bruises and cuts.

Senior Fire Official 2 Wilson Tana of the Manila Fire Bureau said the fire started at the house of Roberto Iriga at 330 C.M. Recto, Binondo, at around 10 a.m.

The blaze quickly spread to adjacent houses, including Servo's three-story home.

Although they have yet to determine the cause of the blaze, arson investigators said their initial probe showed that the fire began in Iriga's kitchen.

The damage to property was placed at around P1.5 million.

MMDA

From page A21

for an alternative dump, Naciongayo said.

The cities of Pasig and Mandaluyong do not have their own landfills.

Abalos appealed to the Office of the President and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources "to interfere" to immediately resolve the problem.

Ynares said the provincial government cannot accommodate Metro Manila's trash, saying the landfill was not built for it.

At present, the Metro Manila local governments are using the Rodriguez landfill for free after the MMDA asked him to accommodate garbage from the metropolis temporarily, Ynares said.

He added that the MMDA and Metro Manila mayors should get help from the private sector in developing sanitary landfills.

CHILDREN'S MONTH EXHIBIT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Women legislators of the 14th Congress headed by Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar (3rd from right) formally open the photo exhibit at the South Wing lobby, House of Representatives to mark Children's Month, in partnership with Unicef, the Philippine Legislator's Committee on Population and Development, and the Children's Network. At the opening were actresses Maricel Laxa Pangilinan (left) and Donita Rose (right) and Unicef representative Dr. Nicholas K. Alipui, with (from left) Representatives Leonila Chavez, Beng Climaco, Carmen Cari, Nanette Daza, Lani Cayetano, Herminia Ramiro and Alex Macatual.

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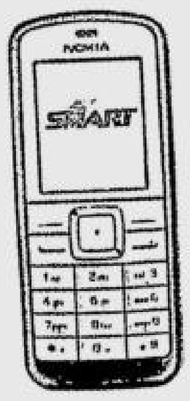

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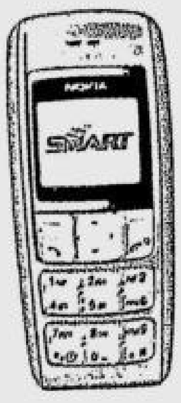

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Pakistan blast blamed on 2 suicide bombers

ISLAMABAD—A PAIR OF SUICIDE bombers were apparently behind last week's bloody attack on opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, a top intelligence official said on Tuesday, as the prime minister expressed optimism that the people behind the plot would soon be brought to justice.

Police had initially said only one suicide bomber participated in the attack, but the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the two severed heads found at the scene—and the fact that no families had emerged to claim either one—suggested two men were responsible.

"One of the attackers wanted to blow himself up under Benazir Bhutto's truck. When people tried to catch him, he detonated the bomb," he said, quoting witness accounts.

Although Bhutto herself escaped unhurt, at least 136 people—mostly supporters from her main opposition Pakistan People's Party—were killed in the attack on her heavily guarded convoy in the southern city of Karachi.

"The culprits will be brought to book," said a statement issued on Tuesday by the office of Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, rejecting Bhutto's request that experts from the US and Britain be invited to help with the probe.

In past attacks "our security agencies had successfully investigated and arrested the perpetrators and are fully capable of investigating such untoward incidents," Aziz said.

Bhutto is widely thought to have been allowed back from exile in a deal with the country's ruler, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

But since Thursday's attack, venomous exchanges have erupted between Bhutto and Aziz's government—which enjoys Musharraf's backing—straining their emerging alliance.

The bitter exchange of words between Bhutto and the ruling party chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain reflect the personal animosity that underlies much of Pakistani politics, and raised doubts about whether longtime enemies could become allies in support of Musharraf.

In exchange for being allowed home from exile, Bhutto is expected to link up with Hussain's party to back Musharraf in a January parliamentary vote.

Since the attack, the government has pointed the finger at pro-Taliban Islamic militants, but Bhutto thinks important figured from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Q party and a head of a spy agency could be behind Thursday's attack.

Bhutto says Hussain is "protecting the killers." She gave no evidence to back up her claim or any further details.

Hussain, in an apparently sarcastic swipe at Bhutto, said that her husband, working with Bhutto and other party leaders, arranged the blasts to stir up public sympathy. The proof: Bhutto went into her armored vehicle minutes before the bombs exploded and was not hurt.

Although his tone appeared to be tongue in cheek, such accusations often gain traction in Pakistan, where conspiracy theories thrive in its violent, intrigue-filled politics.

Hours after last week's attack, Bhutto claimed elements in the government were trying to kill her, saying they were remnants of the regime of former military leader Gen. Zia-ul Haq, whose government ordered the execution of her father, a former prime minister.

Hussain's father, meanwhile, was killed in 1981—allegedly by a militant group run by one of Bhutto's late brothers. *AP*

Kurdish rebels offer Turkey conditional ceasefire

SULAIMANIYAH, IRAQ—KURDISH rebels offered Ankara a ceasefire on Monday, on condition that the Turkish military abandons plans for a incursion into Iraq and ends attacks against the separatist group.

The move, designed to stave off Turkish threats to strike their bases in the mountains of northern Iraq, came as the White House urged Iraq to do more to stop the rebels from using its territory to attack Turkish troops.

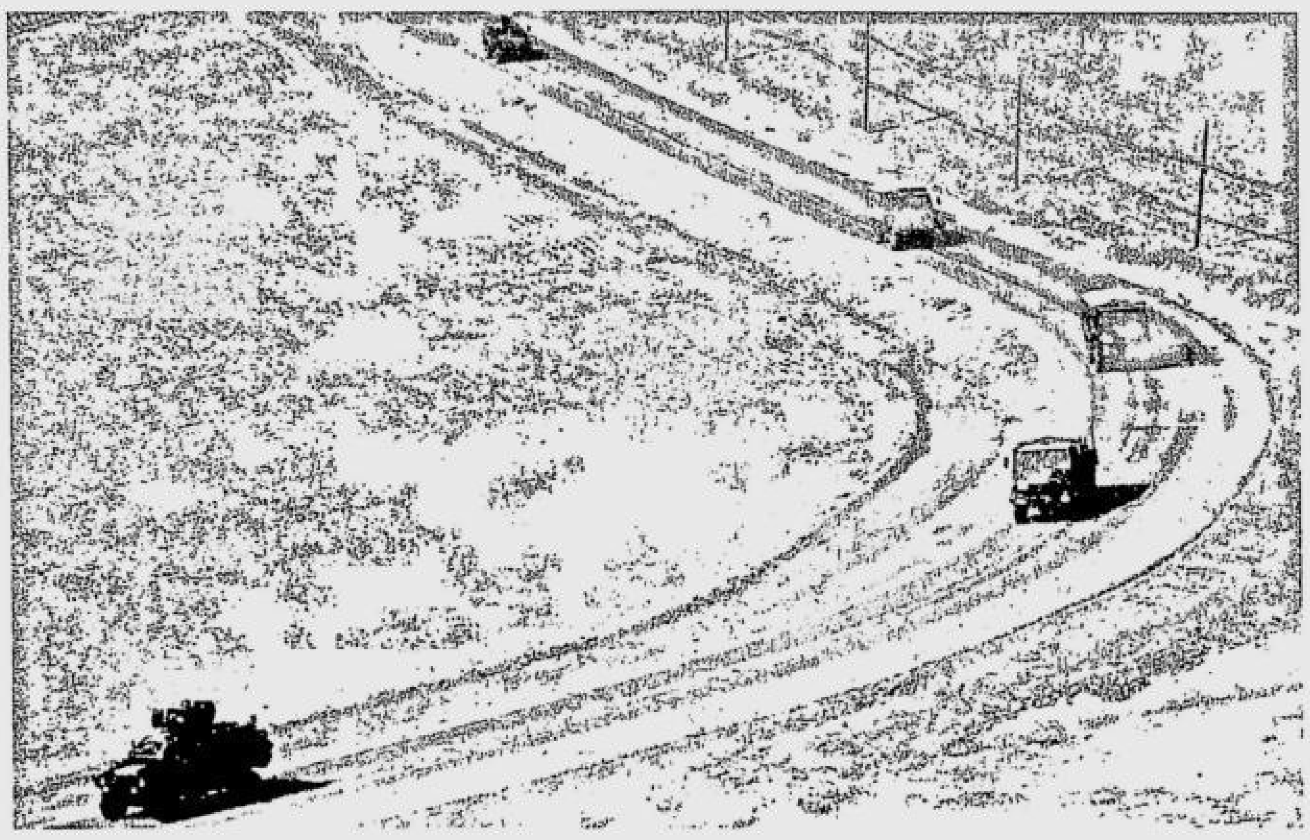
"We are ready for a ceasefire if the Turkish Army stops attacking our positions, drops plans for an incursion and resort to peace," said a statement posted on a website run by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened to launch a military drive into northern Iraq unless Baghdad clamps down on the rebels and turns over the PKK leaders it accuses of masterminding cross-border attacks.

"We are calling for a peaceful solution and distancing ourselves from violence," said the rebel statement.

"If Turkey stops attacking us, the battle will stop and we will start the peace action. We are ready to start dialogue and we are ready to join the political process if Turkey give us the chance," it said.

ARMORED vehicles escort a military convoy, carrying Turkish soldiers, in the province of Sirnak, on the Turkish-Iraqi border, southeastern Turkey on Monday, Oct. 22. Dozens of Turkish military vehicles loaded with soldiers and heavy weapons rumbled toward the Iraq border after an ambush by guerrilla Kurds that left 12 soldiers killed and eight missing. AP



The statement from the PKK, blacklisted as a terror group by both Ankara and the West, noted that past ceasefire offers had been ignored by the Turkish army.

The declaration was preceded by Iraq President Jalal Talabani, himself a Kurd, telling reporters a ceasefire offer would be forthcoming.

It came after Turkey confirmed eight soldiers were missing after weekend clashes with the PKK near the Iraqi border killed at least 12 Turkish troops, ramping up public pressure on the government to take action.

Last week, Turkey's parliament authorized the government to send troops across the Iraqi border at any time it sees fit, amid Turkish anger over a perceived US and Iraqi failure to stamp out the PKK bases.

Amid rising tensions, Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan assured an alarmed international community that Ankara would exhaust diplomatic efforts before resorting to military action.

"We will continue to exert these diplomatic and political efforts with good intention to resolve this crisis caused by a terrorist organization," Babacan told reporters after talks in Kuwait. *AFP*

Blackwater accused of tax evasion

WASHINGTON—THE CHAIR of a congressional committee said on Monday that documents obtained by his panel suggest that private security contractor Blackwater USA "engaged in significant tax evasion."

But the company—under scrutiny already because of deadly shootings in Iraq involving some of its personnel—told Reuters the lawmaker's assertion was incorrect.

Rep. Henry Waxman, chair of the US House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform Committee, accused Blackwater of "failing to withhold and pay millions of dollars in Social Security, Medicare, unemployment and related taxes."

The California Democrat said the firm "sought to conceal its conduct from Congress and law enforcement officials."

Blackwater spokesperson Anne Tyrrell said in an e-mail that Waxman argues Blackwater cannot treat its personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan as "independent contractors" and contends they must be treated as employees for IRS purposes.

"The chairman's contention is incorrect," Tyrrell said.

US Defense Secretary Robert Gates last week criticized security contractors in Iraq while Baghdad pressed the United States to pull Blackwater out of the country following the shootings.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was given the findings on Monday of a State Department review into security contractors in Iraq that also looked into a Sept. 16 shooting incident involving Blackwater that killed 17 Iraqis. *Reuters*

Thaksin's purchase of soccer club probed

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S ANTI-graft body said it had begun a probe into whether ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra bought English Premier League soccer club Manchester City with legitimate financing.

The Asset Examination Committee (AEC), set up after Thaksin was ousted in a bloodless coup last year, will ask the central bank to provide details of his money outflows and the British government to help verify the takeover.

"We want to know if Thaksin really bought the club. If so, where did he get the money from and whether that money had been declared with the Counter Corruption Commission," as required by law, AEC chair Nam Yimyam told reporters.

Another AEC member, who declined to be identified, said the panel would ask the British Embassy in Bangkok to help find out whether the takeover was done by Thaksin himself or by nominees and how it was financed.

"If the probe shows he actually bought the club, we then will have to find out whether the money came from stock manipulation or legitimate businesses," the AEC member said.

Thaksin's family cemented their control of Manchester City in July when they took ownership of 75 percent of the shares in the struggling club for 81 million pounds ($164 million).

The AEC said in August that Thaksin, a telecoms billionaire, might have bought the club with money he had hidden deliberately from the government as it was not mentioned in the asset declarations all Thai politicians have to make. *Reuters*

Carbon dioxide in atmosphere rising faster than expected

WASHINGTON—JUST DAYS after the Nobel prize was awarded for global warming work, an alarming new study finds that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is increasing faster than expected.

Carbon dioxide emissions were 35 percent higher in 2006 than in 1990, a much faster growth rate than anticipated, researchers led by Josep G. Canadell, of Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, report in Tuesday's edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Increased industrial use of fossil fuels coupled with a decline in the gas absorbed by the oceans and land were listed as causes of the increase.

"In addition to the growth of global population and wealth, we now know that significant contributions to the growth of atmospheric CO2 arise from the slowdown" of nature's ability to take the chemical out of the air, said Canadell, director of the Global Carbon Project at the research organization.

The changes "characterize a carbon cycle that is generating stronger-than-expected and sooner-than-expected climate forcing," the researchers report.

Kevin Trenberth of the climate analysis section of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. said the "paper raises some very important issues that the public should be aware of: Namely that concentrations of CO2 are increasing at much higher rates than previously expected and this is in spite of the Kyoto Protocol that is designed to hold them down in western countries,"

Alan Robock, associate director of the Center for Environmental Prediction at Rutgers University, added: "What is really shocking is the reduction of the oceanic CO2 sink," meaning the ability of the ocean to absorb carbon dioxide, removing it from the atmosphere.

The researchers blamed that reduction on changes in wind circulation, but Robock said he also thinks rising ocean temperatures reduce the ability to take in the gas.

"Think that a warm Coke has less fizz than a cold Coke," he said.

Neither Robock nor Trenberth was part of Canadell's research team.

Carbon dioxide is the leading "greenhouse gas," so named because their accumulation in the atmosphere can help trap heat from the sun, causing potentially dangerous warming of the planet.

While most atmospheric scientists accept the idea, finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has been a political problem because of potential effects on the economy. Earlier this month, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and former US Vice President Al Gore for their work in calling attention to global warming.

"It turns out that global warming critics were right when they said that global climate models did not do a good job at predicting climate change," Robock commented. "But what has been wrong recently is that the climate is changing even faster than the models said. In fact, Arctic sea ice is melting much faster than any models predicted, and sea level is rising much faster than IPCC previously predicted."

According to the new study, carbon released from burning fossil fuel and making cement rose from 7.0 billion metric tons per year in 2000 to 8.4 billion metric tons in 2006. A metric tons is 2,205 pounds. *AP*

Malaysia cheers space odyssey of its 1st astronaut

KUALA LUMPUR—THE REturn of Malaysia's first ever astronaut from space was hailed by the deputy premier as a historic moment that made his countrymen "stand a few inches taller," reports said on Monday.

Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor, a 35-year-old doctor and part-time model, returned to Earth on Sunday after 11 days in space.

Muszaphar and two Russian cosmonauts touched down safely in Kazakhstan but 200 kilometers off-target in a rare and unexplained 'ballistic landing' by the Soyuz craft.

Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak followed the landing from the Russian mission control center in Moscow.

"This is a very momentous and historic occasion for Malaysia. It will go down in the annals of our history because this is a first for Malaysia in space and he has returned safely," Najib said in the New Straits Times.

Muszaphar, whose parents were among the cheering Malaysian contingent at mission control, spoke to his father over a borrowed mobile phone.

"Abah (father in the Malay language), it's Mus. I'm back safe and sound. Everything's fine," his father, Sheikh Mustapha Abdul Shukor, recounted to the paper.

Muszaphar was chosen from thousands of hopefuls in a nationwide competition that generated tremendous excitement in Malaysia.

Malaysian leaders see the space flight as a milestone for the country which is marking a half-century of independence from British colonial rule, and are mulling sending another citizen into space.

Najib said the government has until the end of 2009 to decide if it wants to accept an offer from the Russian Space Agency for another Malaysian to journey to the International Space Station (ISS) in late 2010 or early 2011.

Muszaphar's trip was part of a billion-dollar purchase of 18 Sukhoi 30-MKM fighter jets from Russia but Najib said a second space mission will involve direct financing.

"Since the next expedition would involve public funds, the government would have to convince the public of the need of the mission," Najib said.

The Malaysian astronaut trained for over a year at Moscow's Star City before he left for the mission on Oct. 10 with American Peggy Whitson, the new commander on the ISS, and a Russian Yuri Malenchenko.

Muszaphar, a practicing Muslim, celebrated the end of the holy month of Ramadan at the space station and carried out experiments for Malaysia's Genome Institute. *AFP*

MALAYSIAN astronaut Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor wears a traditional Kazakh hat in the northern town of Kustanay after landing in the Kazakhstan steppe on board a Soyuz space capsule on Oct. 21. REUTERS

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

250,000 people flee wildfires in California

A HELICOPTER drops water along a ridge near Las Flores Canyon on Oct. 22 in Malibu, California. Strong Santa Ana winds are making fire fighting conditions especially difficult as this is the driest season since record keeping began 130 years ago. AFP

LOS ANGELES—MORE THAN 250,000 PEOPLE fled their homes as out-of-control wildfires raged across California on Monday, prompting authorities to draft in the US military to support weary firefighters.

At least 13 fires were blazing throughout southern California with thousands of firefighters struggling to contain flames that have reduced more than 600 homes and 100 businesses to charred rubble, officials and reports said.

One person has been killed, more than 20 people injured and around 1,000 square kilometers have been destroyed in the fires, which are some of the worst in the state's history.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has declared states of emergency across several counties, described the crisis as a "tragedy" and said President George W. Bush had offered federal government support.

"It's a tragic time for California," Schwarzenegger said after touring charred remains of buildings in the celebrity enclave of Malibu.

Later Monday Schwarzenegger's office said 1,500 national guard soldiers had been deployed to help firefighters. The governor had also requested assistance from the Pentagon, being granted the use of airborne fire-fighting craft.

By late Monday a vast battalion of several thousand personnel backed up by 316 fire engines, 19 airtankers, 15 bulldozers and eight helicopters was engaged in combat with the myriad infernos.

Fire authorities admitted they were struggling to control the fires and are grimly expecting the situation to worsen as powerful, hot desert winds gust across the region this week.

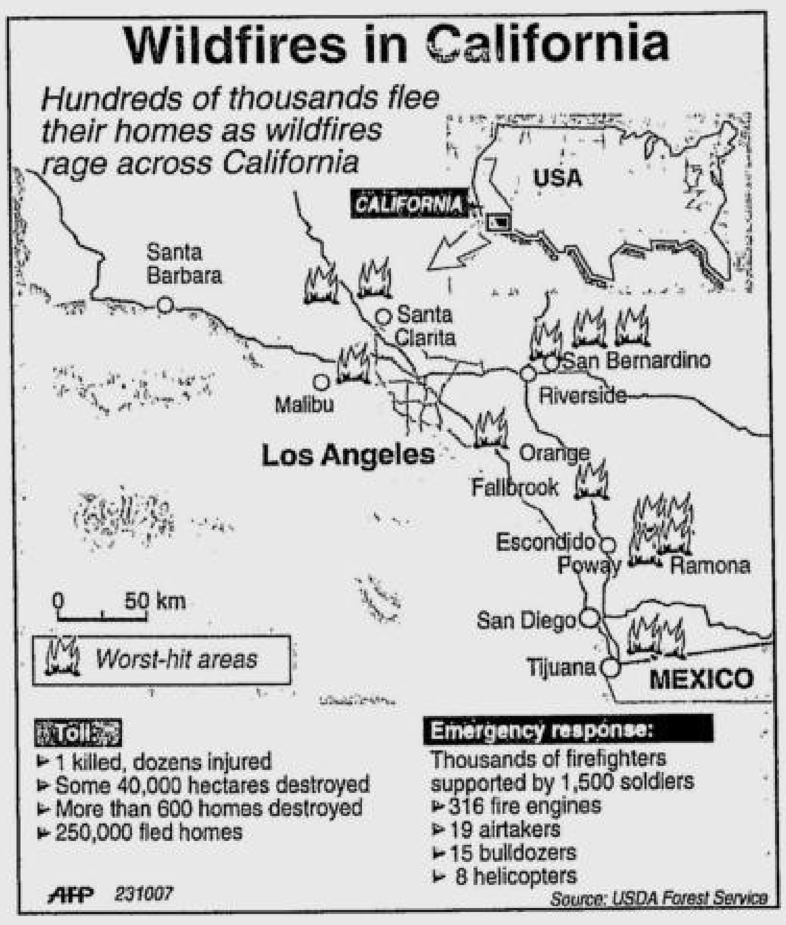
"These fires that are sweeping through Southern California are a perfect storm," said Los Angeles County supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

"The fire department and law enforcement personnel have been stressed almost beyond the point of reason because there are so many fires going.

"The winds are erratic and unpredictable. There is no telling where the fires will move and when." San Diego County Sheriffs revealed that a total of 194,673 households had been evacuated in rural areas across the region.

Among the evacuees were prison inmates and hospital patients, while several schools were also closed.

Some evacuees were sent to Qualcomm Stadium, home of the San Diego Chargers' American football team. One woman, Nancy Canfield, said she was relieved to have escaped with her family, which included her baby grandchildren. *AFP*


Wildfires in California
Hundreds of thousands flee their homes as wildfires rage across California
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San Bernardino
Riverside
Malibu
Los Angeles
Orange
Fallbrook
Escondido
Poway
Ramona
San Diego
Tijuana
MEXICO
0 50 km
Worst-hit areas
Toll:
1 killed, dozens injured
Some 40,000 hectares destroyed
More than 600 homes destroyed
250,000 fled homes
Emergency response:
Thousands of firefighters supported by 1,500 soldiers
316 fire engines
19 airtakers
15 bulldozers
8 helicopters
AFP 231007
Source: USDA Forest Service

Burma agrees to UN rights official's visit

UNITED NATIONS—THE RULING generals in Burma (Myanmar) have agreed to the first visit by the UN's top human rights official in four years, the United Nations said on Monday.

The announcement comes in the aftermath of a violent crackdown on prodemocracy protesters that left at least 13 people dead and intensified international criticism of the military junta.

The junta agreed to a visit by Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, the UN special rapporteur on human rights, and suggested that it take place before a regional summit in Singapore next month, UN spokesperson Michele Montas said.

The UN's top envoy on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, is also scheduled for a return visit to the country next month amid a flurry of diplomatic efforts to put pressure on the junta.

Burma has been in the international spotlight since pro-democracy protests spearheaded by the country's revered Buddhist monks were put down by the regime.

Nearly 3,000 people were rounded up and detained—many of them monks—and at least 13 people were killed. The military, which has run the country with an iron fist since 1962, has repeatedly quashed any shows of dissent.

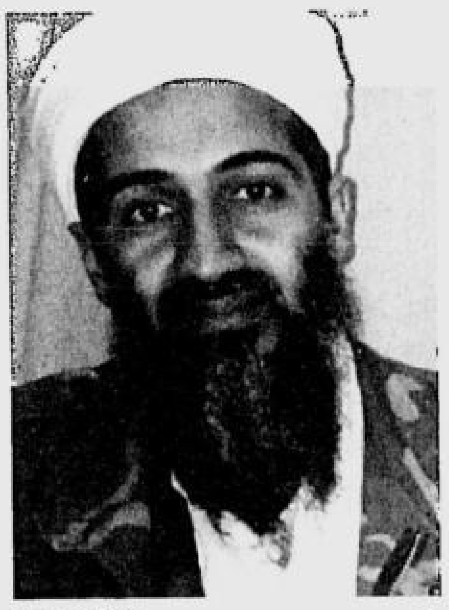
Pinheiro has not been allowed to visit the country since 2003. The UN spokeswperson said Burma had suggested that he come before November's summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). *AFP*

Bin Laden urges Iraqi insurgents to unite

DOHA—AL-QAIDA LEADER OSAMA bin Laden called on leaders of the insurgency in Iraq to bury their rivalries and unite in a common fight against the US-led coalition, in an audiotape broadcast on Monday on Al-Jazeera.

In the message addressed to "my brother fighters in Iraq," the purported voice of Bin Laden called on the insurgent groups to fulfil their "duty" to unite "so that they become one, as God wants." "My brothers, emirs of the mujahedeen, Muslims are waiting for you to gather under one banner so that justice can be served," said the voice.

Bin Laden, in the tape whose authenticity could not immediately be confirmed, said some fighters had committed "mistakes"—without elaborating—and called for insurgents not to follow "their leaders and groups blindly."



BIN LADEN AP

He urged fighters "to beware of sectarianism and not to join up to a party of men, groups or nations. We are brothers in faith because we belong to Islam and not to a tribe, an organization or a country."

The tape on Al-Jazeera is the latest by the head of the terror network since Sept. 20, when Bin Laden called for jihad, or holy war, against Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf over his administration's support for Washington.

Bin Laden called Monday for "honest men of faith ... to exert efforts to unify the ranks of the fighters and to continue without tiring on the path to achieving that."

Al-Jazeera television accompanied the tape with a file picture of Bin Laden, with a salt-and-pepper beard and a white cloth covering his head.

US military and Iraqi officials say thousands of Iraqis have joined a campaign to restore order alongside US forces in various parts of the country, following the example of a Sunni tribal *sheikh*, Abdul Sattar Abu Risha.

The *sheikh*, who was however killed in an al-Qaida attack on Sept. 13, had persuaded Sunni tribes hostile to the US occupation to join the fight against local extremist cells inspired by al-Qaida.

After Bin Laden's last message in September, the United States dismissed his call to overthrow Musharraf's government and pledged to work closely with ally Pakistan to confront extremism. *AFP*

David Copperfield cancels Southeast Asia shows

BANGKOK—AMERICAN MAGICIAN David Copperfield has canceled his upcoming shows in Southeast Asia following allegations of sexual misconduct in the United States, a Thai organizer said on Monday.

"His management sent an e-mail to organizers Sunday to inform that his shows will be postponed indefinitely," said Kittiyong Achawaphong, a public relations official of RSi Dream Entertainment, which organized his shows in Thailand.

Copperfield was scheduled to perform in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand in coming weeks. The cancellations come days after FBI agents searched his warehouse and a casino hotel in Las Vegas, where the magician regularly performs, following charges that he "forced himself" on an unidentified woman.

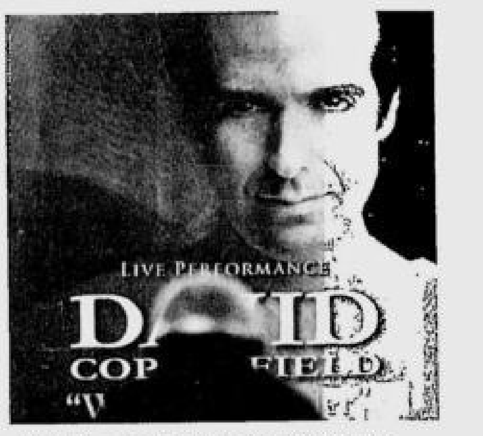
Details about the allegations have not been revealed but Copperfield's lawyer, David Chesnoff, has said "we know these allegations are false because David Copperfield has never forced himself on anyone."

Reached Monday, Chesnoff insisted the shows were canceled because tour operators in Asia default on their contract, not in connection to Copperfield's legal problems.

"Those are serious allegations," Chesnoff said. "But there's no truth to them."

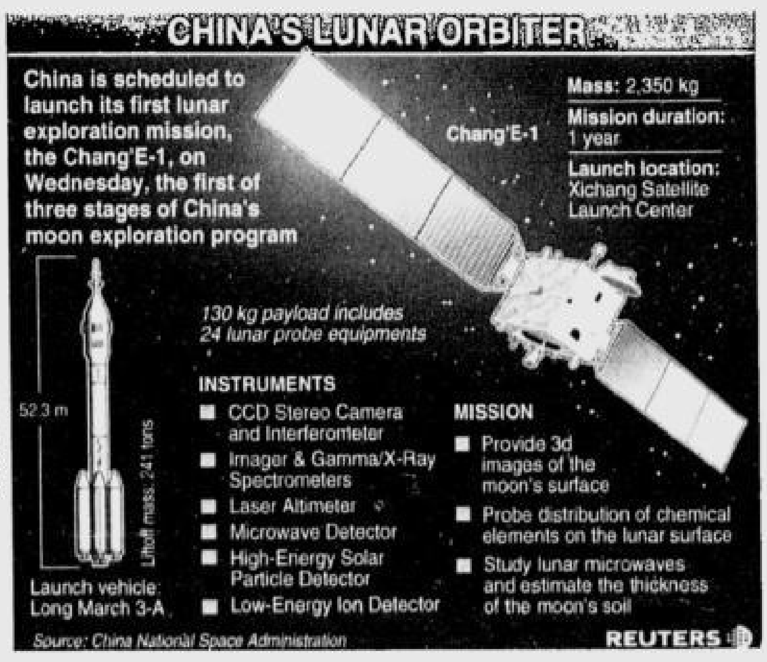
Promoters of some of the Asian shows are trying to negotiate with Copperfield's management to reschedule the performances or recoup some of the losses incurred from the cancellations.

"We are told by Copperfield management that David's show had been canceled by the artist," said Peter Basuki, whose company was organizing the Jakarta show. He said they would like to file a complaint with Copperfield management, but did not elaborate. *AP*


LIVE PERFORMANCE
DAVID
COP FIELD

A MAN powers his motor bike past a billboard advertising David Copperfield's scheduled performances in Jakarta. AFP

China set to launch lunar probe on Wednesday


CHINA'S LUNAR ORBITER
China is scheduled to launch its first lunar exploration mission, the Chang'E-1, on Wednesday, the first of three stages of China's moon exploration program
Chang'E-1
Mass: 2,350 kg
Mission duration: 1 year
Launch location: Xichang Satellite Launch Center
130 kg payload includes 24 lunar probe equipments
52.3 m
Liftoff mass: 241 tons
Launch vehicle: Long March 3-A
INSTRUMENTS
CCD Stereo Camera and Interferometer
Imager & Gamma/X-Ray Spectrometers
Laser Altimeter
Microwave Detector
High-Energy Solar Particle Detector
Low-Energy Ion Detector
MISSION
Provide 3d images of the moon's surface
Probe distribution of chemical elements on the lunar surface
Study lunar microwaves and estimate the thickness of the moon's soil
Source: China National Space Administration
REUTERS

BEIJING—CHINA PLANS TO LAUNCH ITS first lunar probe this week—just weeks after regional rival Japan put one in high orbit over the moon in a big leap forward for Asia's undeclared space race.

The rivalry is likely to be joined soon by India, which plans to send its own lunar probe into space in April.

The launch window for China's Chang'e 1 orbiter has been set for Wednesday through Friday, with the prime time being 6 p.m. Wednesday, said Li Guoping, a spokesperson for the China National Space Administration.

"The orbiting of the moon is a high-tech project of self-innovation," Li told reporters on Monday. "It will set the technological foundation for the development of China's space exploration."

The Chang'e 1—named after a legendary Chinese goddess who flew to the moon—will be launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province in southwestern China, Li said.

Pre-launch inspections have been completed and "they fully fulfill the technical requirements," he said, reading from a statement. He did not take questions.

The Chang'e will orbit the Earth while technical adjustments are made, and by Nov. 5, it will enter the moon's orbit, Li said.

The goal is to analyze the chemical and mineral composition of the lunar surface, he said, adding that it will use stereo cameras and X-ray spectrometers to map three-dimensional images of the surface and study the moon's dust.

It will transmit its first photo back to China in the second half of November. "Then it will work for one year of scientific exploration," Li said.

China sent shock waves through the region in 2003, when it became the first Asian country to put its own astronauts into space. This year, China also blasted an old satellite into oblivion with a land-based anti-satellite missile, the first such test ever conducted by any nation, including the United States and Russia.

"The mission has a very strong scientific emphasis," said Sun Kwok, professor of physics and dean of science at the University of Hong Kong. "It's not just about technology. It's more than just launching a satellite, it's more than putting the first satellite in orbit."

"It's very good for China being a major power," said Kwok, who is on an advisory panel of Chinese scientists who have been invited to help with data analysis on the Chang'e's findings. "It shows that China is moving more and more into the international space community." *AP*

Safeguard and PAMET welcome 15 new students to their scholarship program

Safeguard and the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) teamed up in 1989 with the common mission of improving Filipino health and hygiene. As part of their mission, they introduced a scholarship program to support the country's most promising Medical Technology students and develop them into tomorrow's healthcare leaders. With a long-standing commitment to promote good health and hygiene by transforming lives through a variety of health and education programs, the partnership has, to date, awarded over 200 underprivileged but deserving students with 3-year medical technology scholarships.

Known as the **Handog ng Safeguard... Medtechs ng Kinabukasan Scholarship Program**, it conducts an annual nationwide search for deserving scholars in the field of medical technology. Applicants go through a series of exams and interviews and the top 15 are awarded with medical technology scholarships which begin on their sophomore year of college.

Now on its 18th year, the **Handog ng Safeguard... Medtechs ng Kinabukasan Scholarship Program** announces its latest batch of scholars: Katherine R. Fabros and Setrina Grace M. Carbajosa of San Pedro College, Randy F. Gran of University of the Immaculate Conception, Serren Lor V. Gallinero of University of San Agustin, Rhea Marie B. Taguic and Vanessa T. Eguia of Centro Escolar University, Mary Grace T. Hernaez of Dr. Carlos S. Lanting College, Marikit Laya P. Canonigo of Far Eastern University – NRMF, Mark Alben B. Ponciano of University of Baguio, Joyce P. Escote of Saint Louis University, Charlene Mae D. Munar of Lorma Colleges, Darwin A. Llanes and Liza C. Guico of Lyceum of Batangas, Glezia Marie V. Perez of Uno Recoletos, and Nemie Emmanuelle O. Baylen of Colegio de San Agustin.

These young men and women will be honored tonight at the 18th Handog ng Safeguard... Medtechs ng Kinabukasan Scholarship Awarding Dinner, to be held at the Conservatory of The Peninsula Manila. They will be recognized not only for their academic achievements, socio-civic involvement and outstanding leadership skills, but also for presenting an excellent vision and propensity to achieve the best for the country's future in healthcare.

The **Handog ng Safeguard... Medtechs ng Kinabukasan** is a testament that all Filipinos, whether rich or poor, deserve to achieve proper health and hygiene. Safeguard, recognized as the Philippine's health partner for over 40 years, takes pride in the young men and women who not only worked hard to be awarded the scholarship, but also pledged their lives to work for a healthier society in communities all over the country.

Advt'l

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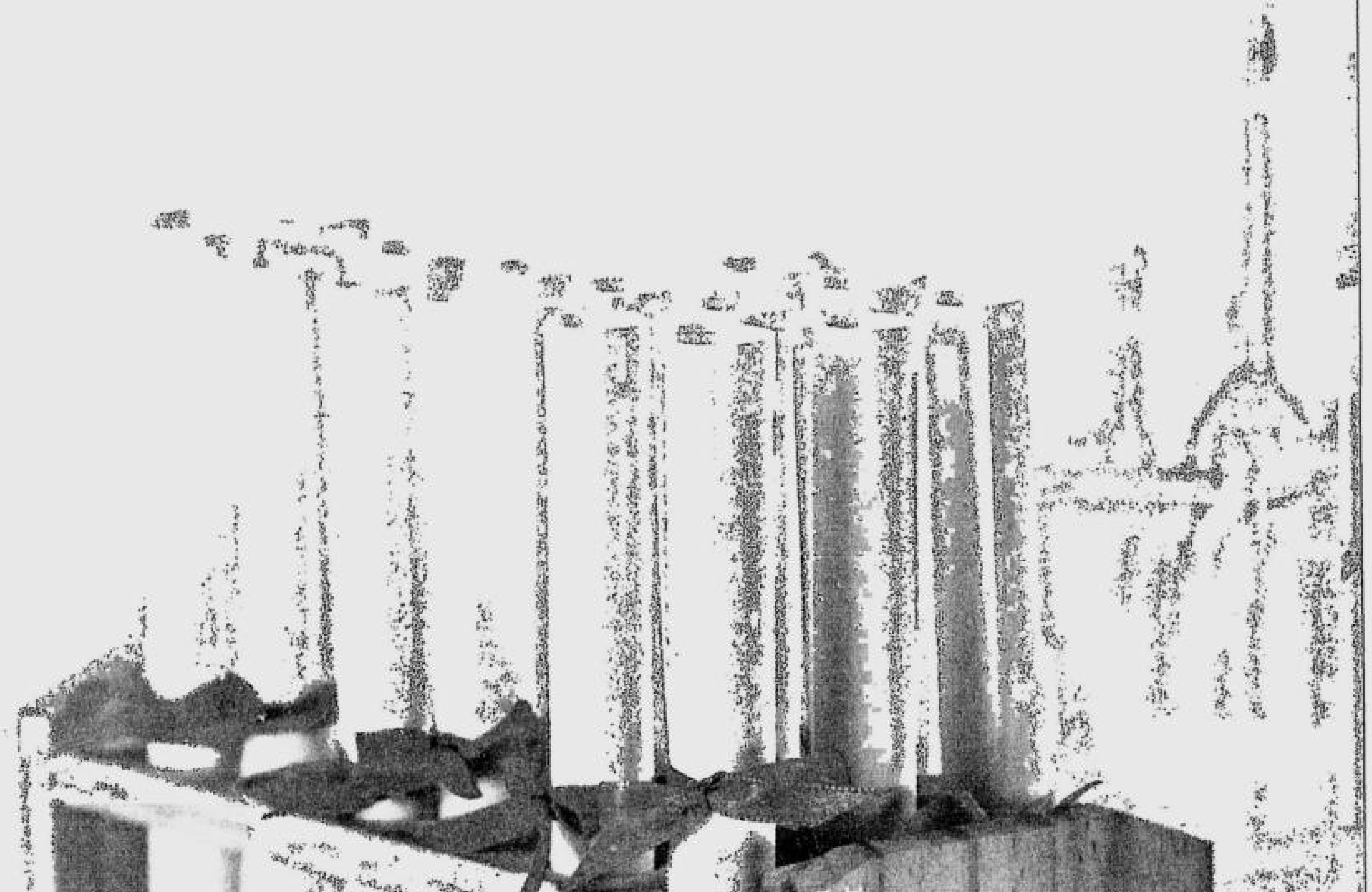
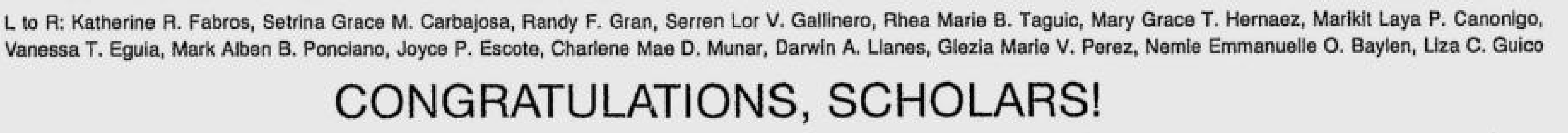
15 TESTED POSITIVE...



2007
HANDOG
NG
Safeguard
MediTechs
Ng Kinabukasan
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

FOR THEIR PASSION TO CHAMPION FILIPINO FAMILY HEALTH. SAFEGUARD AND PAMET AWARD 15 MEDTECH SCHOLARS.

On its 18th year, the *Handog ng Safeguard... Medtechs ng Kinabukasan Scholarship Program* celebrates a new breed of medtech scholars -- the brightest and most passionate. Bound by one conviction, that Medtech education is empowerment; an enabler to be of valuable use to Filipino family health. And so we raise our flasks to this country's future health champions.



L to R: Katherine R. Fabros, Setrina Grace M. Carbajosa, Randy F. Gran, Serren Lor V. Gallinero, Rhea Marie B. Taguic, Mary Grace T. Hernaez, Marikit Laya P. Canonigo, Vanessa T. Eguia, Mark Alben B. Ponciano, Joyce P. Escote, Charlene Mae D. Munar, Darwin A. Llanes, Glezia Marie V. Perez, Nemie Emmanuelle O. Baylen, Liza C. Guico

CONGRATULATIONS, SCHOLARS!

WHAT'S INSIDE

Lady Stags get it done in five /A28

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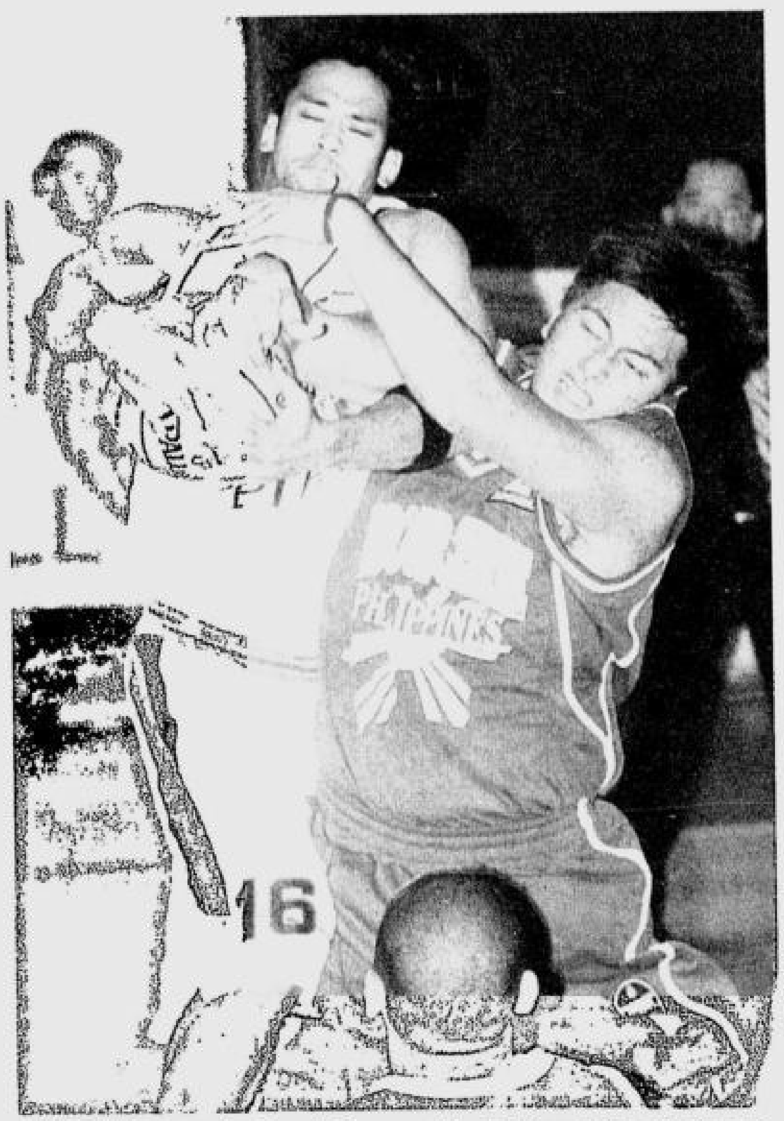
World Series: Can Red Sox end Rockies roll?/A31



HARBOUR Centre's Gerwin Gaco and the RP Team's Beau Belga are a picture of tenacity in this rebound battle. RYAN LIM

Gabe sparks Hapee; Harbour trips RP 5

By Jasmine W. Payo

HIS CONFIDENCE QUICKLY rubbed off on his teammates.

Fil-Am Gabe Norwood's debut turned out to be a feel-good stint for his teammates as Hapee Toothpaste repulsed Mail and More, 80-74, yesterday in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym in Manila.

"His (Norwood's) arrival inspired the team," said Hapee coach Jun Noel of the hotshot 6-foot-5 guard. "All the players are motivated. But he has yet to show his real game. He had only four days of practice."

Larry Rodriguez topscored with 17 points, including two buckets that capped an 8-0 spurt, as the Complete Protectors moved safely in front, 80-72, with only seconds left in the game.

The much-hyped Norwood, who is reportedly being eyed by the all-amateur Harbour-RP Team, had 10 points, seven rebounds and two assists. (*See related feature on A30*)

GAMES TOMORROW
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—Mail and More vs RP Team
4 p.m.—Pharex vs Toyota Balintawak

Mark Borboran, who finished with 15 points and nine rebounds, and Alfie Grijaldo also came through with key baskets in the final two minutes after the Comets had tied the game at 72-all.

Earlier, La Salle veteran TY Tang also proved his worth to see action in the Southeast Asian Games.

Tang unloaded a career-high 26 points as Harbour Centre shamed the all-amateur RP Team, 83-74, in the first game and joined opening-day winners San Mig Coffee and Toyota Balintawak in the early lead.

"Their (Nationals') outside shooters didn't click and they committed many turnovers," said Batang Pier coach Jorge Gallent. "They usually make 14 to 16 three-pointers, but they struggled (this time). We played good defensively and offensively. We let their big men shoot and stopped their outside shooters."

GABE/ A31

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RP lady booters pip HK, gain 2nd round

A RESILIENT PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL team held host Hong Kong to a 1-1 standoff in their second match Monday night and advanced to the second round of the AFC Asian Women's Cup in March next year against a still undetermined foe.

A well-executed "cabezada" by midfielder Jamie Castro from a corner kick in the 32nd minute squared the match after Hong Kong striker Fung Kam-mui had put the aggressive hosts in front with a breakaway goal 10 minutes earlier at the Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground.

The encounter's final scoreline meant the Philippines, mentored by Marlon Maro, won the two-match series, 4-3, on aggregates.

The Filipinos nipped the Hong Kong lady footballers, 3-2, Saturday night on a well-struck late marker by striker Angeline Impelido.

Head of delegation Cathy Rivilla, also president of the Muntinlupa-Parañaque-Las Piñas Football Association, said the series against Hong Kong "also served as a pre-Southeast Asian Games warmup for the girls."

The Filipinos played cautiously early on as Japanese referee Iwaki Mariko clamped down on unnecessary tackles during the chilly evening match.

The RP team's trip was made possible by Gilligan's Restaurant, PLDT, Casa Belrina Travel, Sphere Gym, Pythos and Mariposa.

Steve Silva, Contributor

Lady Stags get it done in five

SSC spikers seize lead; UST scores

By Romina S. Austria

SAN SEBASTIAN NEEDED FIVE SETS TO turn back Ateneo, 18-25, 25-23, 29-27, 20-25, 15-7, and claimed the solo lead yesterday in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

The match that pitted talented Thai guest players Jaroensri Bualee of the Lady Stags and Lithawat Kesinee of the Lady Eagles was decided by the more solid teamwork of Muralla-based squad which now sports a 2-0 card.

While Bualee knows exactly where to move with the SSC rotation, Kesinee and the rest of the Lady Eagles lost crucial points on miscommunication.

When Ateneo moved within two points of taking a 2-0 set lead at 23-22, SSC skipper Laurence Ann Latigay punctured the Lady Eagles' defense with a smash to tie the match.

The Lady Stags then clinched the set off their opponents' errors to tie the match at 1-1.

In the 34-minute third set marked by six lead changes and 16 deadlocks, Kesinee bailed Ateneo out of trouble several times with powerful smashes. But Bualee had more solid local support as Rysabelle Devanadera, Latigay, Mellissa Mirasol, Jinni Mondejar and Charisse Ancheta turned four near-set losses, the last at 26-25, into a 29-27 third-set win.

Bualee slowed down in the fourth set, allowing Ateneo to force the decider.

Bualee and Latigay finished off the Lady Eagles in the third set by scoring the game's last five points.

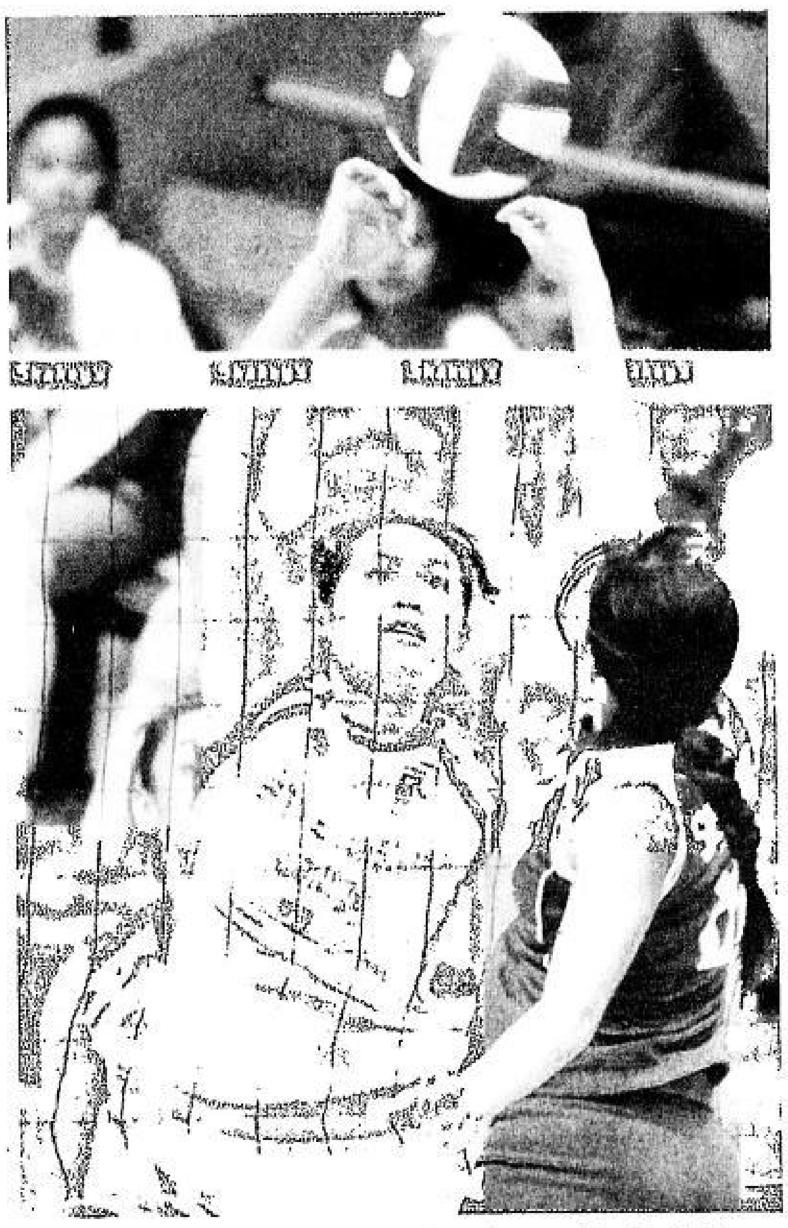
Bualee scored a game-high 31 points, including 29 on attacks, while Latigay added 18.

Ateneo had 30 points from Kesinee, who also scored 10 points off blocks.

In the second game, first conference champion University of Santo Tomas overpowered Far Eastern University, 25-20, 25-19, 25-19, to climb to second place at 2-2, the same record of Adamson University.

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC	2	0
UST	2	1
Adamson	2	1
Ateneo	1	1
La Salle	1	1
FEU	2	2
Letran	0	2
Lyceum	0	2

GAMES FRIDAY
(The Arena, San Juan)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs Letran
5 p.m.—SSC vs Lyceum



SAN Sebastian's prolific Thai guest player Jaroensri Bualee (left) battles Ateneo's Bea Pascual at the net. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Kings eye share of lead vs Phone Pals tonight

BARANGAY GINEBRA SHOOTS FOR A share of the Philippine Cup lead today when the Gin Kings battle a powerhouse Talk 'N Text side at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

A victory over the Phone Pals in the 7:20 p.m. tussle will put the defending champion Gin Kings in the company of idle sister teams Purefoods and Magnolia at the top.

Red Bull and Welcoat try to break into the win column earlier when they clash in the 4:35 p.m. contest with the Bulls trying to get things done without suspended coach Yeng Guiao *(See related story on A31)*.

Ginebra, which won this tournament at the expense of San Miguel last year, will try to win a second straight game without the prolific Mark Caguioa, who is still recovering from a shoulder injury.

The Kings will be taking the momentum of a 102-95 victory over the Bulls in the same match where Guiao was canned for a game after charging at technical officials.

Talk 'N Text, meanwhile, will be coming off an ugly maiden loss to the Purefoods Tender Juicy Giants, 96-112, last week in Dumaguete.

It was quite uncharacteristic for such a formidable team to go down that way, and how the Phone Pals have managed to move on after that setback could make or break the Gin Kings' own game strategy tonight.

Super pinch-hitter Mark Macapagal did not make the Gin Kings miss Caguioa one bit, shooting impeccably in the fourth period to carry Ginebra on his shoulders in a wild finish versus the Bulls.

Jay-Jay Helterbrand, Rafi Reavis, Eric Menk, Johnny Abarrientos and a host of reliable players coming off the bench would have to deliver in order to negate Talk 'N Text's advantage in manpower.

The Phone Pals will be led by Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and Ren-Ren Ritualo and at least five more men, including Anthony Washington, which could easily make for another starting lineup.

Musong R. Castillo

STANDINGS	W	L
Magnolia	2	0
Purefoods	2	0
Ginebra	1	0
Coca-Cola	1	0
Talk 'N Text	1	1
Air21	1	1
Welcoat	0	1
Red Bull	0	1
Alaska	0	2
Sta. Lucia	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:35 p.m.—Welcoat vs Red Bull
7:20 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Ginebra

Asian Clay Shooting Championship blasts off

OVER A HUNDRED PREMIER MARSKSMEN from all over Asia are now in the country to begin their quest for supremacy in the 2007 Asian Clay Shooting Championship at the PSC-PNSA Clay Shooting Range at the BuCor Compound in Muntinlupa City.

The week-long shootfest hosted by the country for the first time after seven years starts today with an hour-long opening rite starting at 9 a.m.

Entries from title favorites India, Qatar, China and Kuwait will be joined by bets from Thailand, Singapore, Iran, Korea, Japan and Malaysia in their quest for honors. Competitors from Pakistan, Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei are also seeing action.

The Filipinos will be backstopped by Olympian Jethro Dionision, National Open trap champion Carlos Carag, Eric Ang, Raul Arambulo, Andres Balasbas and skeet specialists Paul Brian Rosario, Patricio Bernardo and Gabriel Tong.

The women's side will have Ma. Theresa Lara, Jade de Guzman, Marissa Floreindo and Gay Corral, chair of the local organizing committee.

Arturo Macapagal, president of the organizing Philippine National Shooting Association, will deliver the opening remarks.

SPORTSWATCH

IBF pits Gorres, Darchinyan in junior bantam eliminator

THE NEW JERSEY-BASED INTERNATIONAL Boxing Federation (IBF) has ordered an eliminator between Filipino Z Gorres and Vic Darchinyan, the leading available contenders in the junior bantamweight division, for the right to challenge newly crowned 115-pound champ Dmitri Kirilov.

The IBF has sent notices to the camps of Gorres and Darchinyan for the fight.

The Darchinyan-Gorres bout is penciled to take place on Dec. 1 in Connecticut.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

St. Scho, DLSZ spikers snare WNCAA crowns

DE LA SALLE ZOBEL AND ST. SCHOLASTICA's College swept their respective finals series over the weekend to snare volleyball titles in the 38th WNCAA at the RTU gym.

DLSZ bagged the midgets crown by beating St. Scholastica twice in a row, 23-25, 25-21, 25-16, and 25-16, 25-20.

But St. Scholastica was a big winner in the junior level as it kept its title over San Beda Alabang, also its finals victim last year, 25-23, 25-18, 25-20 and 15-25, 25-14, 23-25, 26-24, 15-5.

Bigtime 'Salpukan' today

THE WTJ SPORTS AND GAMING CORP. assembled a formidable cast of well-known derbyists to stage the highly awaited 165 K Bigtime Salpukan 7-stag derby today at Makati Coliseum featuring more than 100 fights.

Ricky Reyes and Charlie Hao of Clyde and Yce entry, winner of the 110 K NCA Stag Championship derby last week, head a tough field of 34 participants.

Bakbakan elims begin

THE METRO MANILA ELIMINATIONS OF National Bakbakan 10-stag derby, the biggest stagfest for 2007 expected to draw more than 1,000 entries, start today at San Juan Coliseum.

Under the auspices of National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders, Bakbakan attracted a record field of 1, 273 entries last year, said NFGB president Ricoy Palmares. It has a guaranteed prize of P15 million for an entry fee of P15,000.

Pasig 10-stag derby

THE "NATIONAL BAKBAKAN 10-STAG Derby, an inter-cockpit event, shifts to the Pasig Square Garden on Saturday with some 70 entries taking part.

The 3-stag eliminations on Saturday will be participated in by members of the Rizal Gamefowl Breeders Association headed by Joey Sy and United Bulacan Gamefowl Breeders Association led by Tony Osan. Entries must be presented at PSG on Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

RACING
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Mountain Cat (6), War Love (2), Storm Breaker (3), Slim Princess (5)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Sweet Talk (6), Bachelor Of Arts (2), Victory Ranger (4), Run Like D'Wind (5)
Race 3—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Mika's Pride (8), Trouble Master (10), Shame On You (2), Empire Maker (6), Master Professor/Richie Rich (4), Cuadro De Alas (11)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Wynn's Connection (5), House Of Riches (2), Blue Print (3), Divine Diva (4)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Passing Through (11), Dynamic Duo (1), Golden Song (9), Ilocos Pride (6), Xtreme Heat/Formidable Ella (8), Quick Play (10)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Courage Heart (5), Cash McCall (2), Madel Line (6), Sakura Ijhay (4), Queen Of Gaia (7)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—El Terrible/Golden Sutter (5), Golden Connection/Campaign Warrior (4), Ima (2), Sunline (3), Luck Of The Irish (8)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Do Re Mi (12), Shifty (4), Tervalac/Lucky Beat (5), Selectee (10), Archer/Bullish Dream (8), Alam Mo Na Yan (3)

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Athletics, football matches kick off Naga Olympicfest

By June Navarro

NAGA CITY—ACTION IN CENTERPIECE ATHletics and football will usher in the Bicol-Southern Tagalog qualifying games of the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival today at the Metro Naga Sports Complex here.

The dark horse Cavite delegation was the first to arrive, with the contingents from Laguna, Rizal, Batangas, Albay, Masbate, Sorsogon and Camarines Norte set to arrive in time for the inaugurals of the five-day competitions expected to draw about 1,500 athletes.

A simple opening ceremony highlighted by the traditional parade of participants and the lighting of the Games cauldron will be held at the city plaza.

Competition in archery, baseball, basketball, chess, judo, karatedo, muay thai, sepak takraw, table tennis and wrestling begin tomorrow at various venues in the city.

Competitions in medal-rich aquatics and arnis come off the wraps on Friday while gymnastics, powerlifting and taekwondo unfold on Saturday.

The host city, which has also hosted the Palarong Pambansa, and Camarines Sur will be fielding a big delegation in a serious bid to bag the overall championship.

Naga City Mayor Jessie Robredo will be the guest speaker of the Games opening. Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and chair Robert Aventajado will also be on hand in the event aimed at discovering future national team members.

"We're in the final stage of the qualifying legs and we're happy to be here in Naga City," said Aventajado, who arrived here late Tuesday.

Manila topped the POF-National Capital Region qualifying leg on Monday, upstaging penultimate-day pacesetter Quezon City.

CLUB CHAMPS TOURNEY

Shock wins for V'quez, Magpantay

GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE—SUMMIT POINT'S LINO MAGPANTAY watched his foe miss a putt from an almost "gimme" distance to escape with a 1-up win, the same result Andy Vasquez of Wack Wack obtained in pulling off the day's biggest shocker yesterday as the match-play phase of the National Tournament of Champions presented by INQUIRER GOLF and HSBC got going here.

Magpantay, the 14th seed, salvaged par on the 18th hole of Eagle Ridge's Norman course and was getting ready for sudden-death as Raffy Garcia of Forest Hills stood over his putt from less than two feet.

But the playoff vanished into thin air as Garcia's sidehill putt lipped out.

Magpantay forged a clash with Jingy Tuason of Sta. Elena who scored the day's most lopsided victory—an 8-and-7 whipping of Valley's Chino Raymund.

Park Jung-soo, the defending champion, needed an extra hole to oust fellow Korean Koh Seng-min in what could be a portent of things to come for the Eastridge campaigner.

After needing to go through a sudden-death for the eighth and last spot in seniors play, Vasquez again rallied from three holes down in the first four to bring down top seed Philip Brodett of Canlubang, 1-up, and reach tomorrow's semifinals.

Also advancing to the seniors semifinals were Frankie Locsin of Iloilo, Ed Rendon of Forest Hills and Sengyo Kato of Alabang.

Locsin defeated Boni Sumbilla of Valley, 3 and 2; Rendon stopped Pacifico Lim of Orchard, 3 and 2; and Kato turned back Rico Brizuela of Ayala Greenfield, 2 and 1.

The regular ladies division of the annual tournament backed by Toyota as major sponsor and Coca-Cola, Pocari Sweat, Callaway/Electrobus and Titleist as hole sponsors got going with Lyn Mangulabnan of Northwoods carding a 78 to gain top seeding.

Mangulabnan edged Vince Godio of Alabang/Sta. Elena in the countback for the No. 1 spot.

Joining them in the match-play round were Leana Farrales of Canlubang, Christine Popp of Iloilo, Josefina Palumbarit of Aguinaldo, Hedy See of Tagaytay Highlands, Nila Patricio of Sherwood Hills, Lilibeth Ratcliffe of Camp John Hay.

The other bidders who won their matches in the men's division were Enrico Solon of Cebu, Rodel Mangulabnan of Northwoods, Abe Avena of Malarayat, Iggy Clavecilla of Alabang and Marty Ilagan of Manila Southwoods.

Solon edged Ronnie Littaua of Aguinaldo, 1-up; Mangulabnan overwhelmed Jessie Tan of Palos Verdes, 7 and 6, Avena held off Mark Rivera of Iloilo, and Clavecilla turned back Tootsie de Jesus of Tagaytay Highlands, 1-up.

The scores:

Women's Division—78 Lyn Mangulabnan, 78 Vinice Godio, 79 Leana Farrales, 81 Christine Popp, 84 Josefina Palumbarit, 84 Hedy See, 85 Nila Patricio, 86 Lillibeth Ratcliffe

MATCHES TODAY

Men's Division

JS Park (1) vs. E. Solon (9),
R. Mangulabnan (4) vs. A. Avena (12),
I. Clavecilla (2) vs. M. Ilagan (10),
L. Magpantay (14) vs. J. Tuason (6)

Women's Division

L. Mangulabnan (1) vs. L. Ratcliffe (8),
C. Popp (4) vs. J. Palumbarit (5),
V. Godio (2) vs. N. Patricio (7),
L. Farrales (3) vs. H. See (6)

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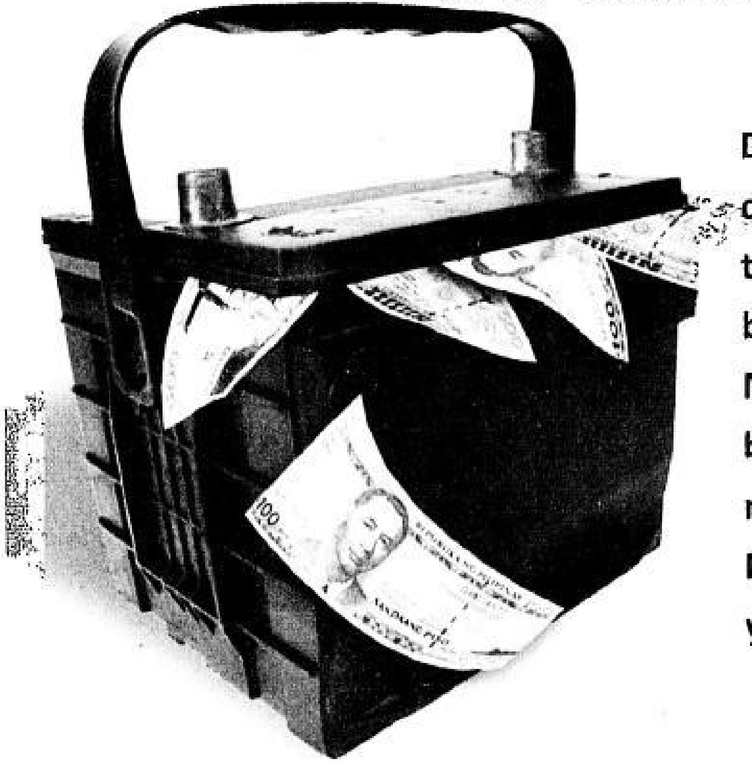

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Basadre, Boholst, Lopez kick off RP's boxing bid

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre

A FESTIVE parade of competing countries, among them the English delegation, kicks off the World Boxing Championships Monday. AP

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—DOHA ASIAN Games bronze medalist and lightweight Genebert Basadre, light welterweight Delfin Boholst and welterweight Wilfredo Lopez start their campaign Tuesday in the International Amateur Boxing Association (Aiba) World Boxing Championships here.

The RP-PLDT-Smart boxing team had a one-hour practice at the University of Illinois-Chicago Physical Education building Monday afternoon. Basadre, Boholst and Lopez said that they are ready to rumble.

The general weigh-in and draws will be held Tuesday morning at the Palmer House Hilton.

"I'll fight anybody," said the 23-year-old Basadre. "My dream is to box in the Olympics."

The event is a qualifier for the Beijing Olympics next year.

"I'll give it all to make it to Beijing," said the 5-foot-9 Boholst, who won the gold medal in the recent National Open. "I want to make my parents proud."

The 5-foot-10 Lopez, a native of Kiamba in Sarangani Province said he isn't afraid of the world-class field.

"Why should I be afraid?" he said.

"The men are in very good condition," said head coach Pat Gaspi. "Let us see what will happen because all our preparations are in order."

"Lopez has improved a lot," said assistant coach Ronald Chavez, a 1992 Barcelona Olympics campaigner. "Experience-wise, he is at the losing end. But nobody can question his courage."

Doha Asian Games gold medalist Violito Payla and veteran Harry Tañamor, a two-time World championships bronze medalist, will see action on Wednesday, while Joan Tipon and Charly Suarez are scheduled to box on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the slugfest formally opened Monday with a festive parade of teams from the Hilton to the Chicago Theater with Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Aiba president Chiang Kuo Wu in attendance.

A major surprise during the opening ceremony was the presence of the legendary Muhammad Ali, who received a standing ovation from the delegates when he made his appearance.

Ali waved from a special box and was greeted with thunderous applause even as some of the competitors shouted "Ali, Ali, Ali."

The competing countries: AFRICA—Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia; **AMERICAS**—Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, US Virgin Islands, United States, Venezuela; **ASIA**—Cambodia, China, Chinese Taipei, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam; **EUROPE**—Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, Wales; **OCEANIA**—Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Bautista comeback fight slated December

CEBU CITY—REY "BOOM BOOM" BAUTISTA will try to pick himself up from a frustrating loss he suffered in his last fight when he takes on Antonio Meza of Mexico on Dec. 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Billed as "Payback," the event will have the 21-year-old Bautista staking his World Boxing Organization (WBO) Intercontinental super-bantamweight title in his first ring appearance since a first round loss to hard-hitting Daniel Ponce de Leon in their WBO 122-pound title fight in Sacramento, California last August.

The loss was the first in Bautista's 23 fights (23-1,17 KOs) as a professional.

The native of Candijay, Bohol is aware of how important a victory will be in the face of that defeat, which has forced him to mount a comeback of sorts.

"I've prepared myself for this fight," Bautista said.

"Dec. 2 is the date of the return of Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista to bigtime boxing," said former PBA Commissioner Noli Eala in a Cebu press conference yesterday.

Eala is part of a consortium of sports and business personalities that include Tagbilaran City Mayor Dan Neri Lim and ABC-5 top executives Tony Boy Cojuangco and Eric Tagle that aims to turn the country's boxing scene into a world-class form of entertainment.

Michael Aldeguer, president of the ALA Boxing Gym that Bautista fights out of, admitted the fight against Meza, 24, (23-2, 16 KOs) is going to say a lot on what the future holds for "Boom Boom."

"It's a very crucial fight for him especially coming off a loss against Ponce de Leon in his last outing," stressed Aldeguer.

Another ALA boxer, AJ Banal, the rising 18-year-old Filipino boxing phenom with a record of 15 wins, 1 draw and 12 knockouts, will fight as the main supporting bout, facing Mexican super-flyweight champion Jovanny Sotto for the local boy's WBO Youth super-flyweight title. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

Nat'l jins face tough schedule

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE TAEKWONDO, heavily relied on to end the country's search for its first Olympic gold medal, embarks on a busy end-of-the-year schedule in the hope of gaining more skills for—and slots to—the Beijing Games next year.

Aside from the coming Thailand Southeast Asian Games where the country is fielding a full 16-man contingent, the RP jins are also seeing action in three major tournaments in the sport's place of origin, South Korea.

The Philippines will deploy bets to the World Taekwondo Hanmandang on Nov. 1-4 in Suwon, before taking part in the Incheon 3rd Korea Open International Taekwondo Championships the following week.

The RP jins, who recently competed in the Asian Taekwondo Federation Games in Ba Ria Vung Tau, Vietnam, will also participate in the 2nd World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships also in Incheon from Nov. 4-6.

In late November, the Philippines is once again sending a team to an Asian qualifying for the Beijing Olympics.

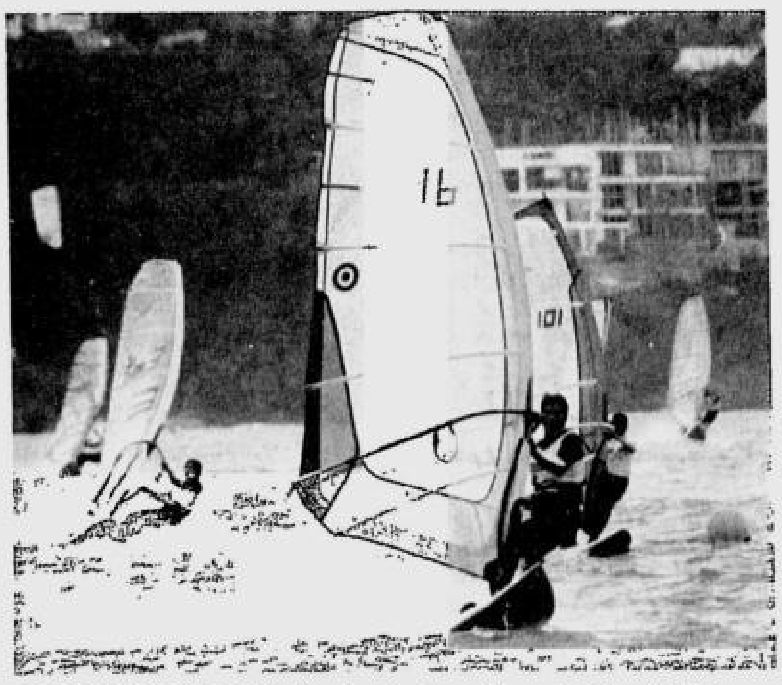
Tshomlee Go earned an outright berth after bagging the bronze medal in the 58kg category last September in the World Qualifying held in Manchester, England.

The country, supported by Smart and Petron, was one of only 16 countries which managed to send entries to the Beijing Games via the World Qualifying, where 104 nations took part.

Korea earned a full four berths, while France, Cuba, Canada, Italy and Chinese Taipei clinched two places each for the Beijing Olympic Games.

Taking a slot each aside from the Philippines were the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Australia, Mali, Croatia, Greece, Mexico and Thailand.

Spain and Turkey, all bannered by world and continental champions, failed to land a spot and are expected to beat a path to China via the regional qualifying.



BORACAY BOUND: Windsurfers try to outdo each other in last year's edition of the Boracay International Funboard Cup. The event returns to the world-famous shores of Boracay again with the staging of the Neil Pryde International Funboard Cup with close to 100 participants confirming their participation.

Norwood sets eyes on NBA, Euro stint

By Jasmine W. Payo

EVERYBODY WANTS A PIECE OF AMATEUR basketball's hottest property.

But Fil-Am Gabe Norwood has his own game plan that he intends to follow. And that involves taking it slow despite the slew of offers coming his way.

"I'm taking it a year at a time," said Norwood. "My ultimate goal is to play in the NBA. I'm still young."

But it's a long-term plan that the 6-foot-5 guard hopes to set in motion right here in the Philippine soil.

"Basically this is the beginning of my career," he said. "Everybody's been welcoming, helping me out to have an easy transition."

His body clock has been adjusting—as well as his brand of play—since returning to the country last Wednesday to suit up for Hapee Toothpaste in the PBL. (*See related story on A27*)

"I'm still trying to get adapted here," said Norwood, the eldest of five kids of college football coach Brian Norwood and half-Filipina Tiffiney Viloria-Hardy.

Sleeping a lot

"I'm still adjusting to the time, so I've been sleeping a lot."

But on court, Norwood has been giving his full attention.

"Size-wise it's different here," said Norwood, who used to start for US NCAA Final Four squad George Mason University.

"I'm also used to play the point, but I'll play a lot of positions here. I guess I'll play whatever my coach will tell me, from 1 to 5. The speed is also different. I'll be running a bit more."

His stint with the all-amateur national team in the Southeast Asian Games remains uncertain even after suiting up for the all-pro the San Miguel-RP squad in the Fiba Asia championship in Tokushima, Japan last July.

"Of course I would like to play for the national team," said Norwood. "But since I got back, no one has contacted me from the RP team. So it's up to the (Hapee) management."

PBA teams also previously sounded off their interest for the 22-year-old cager.

"I think I can play in the PBA," said Norwood, who has been living alone in a condominium in Manila, and whose relatives are from Bohol.

Aside from the NBA, Norwood, too, remains hopeful to get a crack at the international scene in the coming years.

"I recently got a soft offer from a team in the European league, but they decided to re-sign their player, so it fell through," he shared. "I also tried out for the Utah Jazz the past summer. But I'm just taking it a year at a time. Right now I'll just do my best in the PBL."

GABE Norwood prefers to take a long, hard look at all the options thrown his way. PDI PHOTO

Runners ready to race for Gawad Kalinga

MORE THAN 5,000 RUNNING ENTHUSIASTS have already enlisted for the 1st Adidas Run For Love, a charity race for the Gawad Kalinga Foundation.

The 5K and 10K races, sponsored by Adidas Philippines, is slated on Saturday, Oct. 27 at the Pacific Drive St. near the North Wing parking lot of the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Adidas sports marketing manager Goody Custodio is expecting more runners to join this event. Proceeds of Run For Love will go to the Gawad Kalinga Foundation, an organization focused on the problems of poverty and the homeless.

Same vision

Custodio said Adidas shares Gawad Kalinga's vision of building a slum-free, squatter-free nation by providing land for the landless, homes for the homeless, food for the hungry and as a result providing dignity and peace for every Filipino.

Registration is still open for the 5K and 10K races at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Bldg. #51 Annapolis in Greenhills, San Juan.

Registration fee is P250, inclusive of one Adidas running singlet.

Aside from the 5K and 10K run also slated on Saturday are family fun filled day at MOA Gawad Kalinga family expo located at blk. 4 and 5 bounded by Pacific Drive and Marima way of SM Mall of Asia.

The race will start at exactly 6 a.m. Assembly time is no later than 5 a.m. for prerace briefing and check in.

All finishers will receive certificates of completion.

World Series: Can Red Sox end Rockies roll?

CLINT Barnes of the Colorado Rockies throws to second base during practice at Coors Field in Denver. AP

BOSTON—THE COLORADO ROCKIES arrive in Boston on Wednesday eager to rekindle the blazing form that saw them streak to the first World Series in franchise history.

The rollicking Rockies have won 21 of 22 games since September 15, including seven in a row since reaching the postseason with a victory over San Diego in a rare one-game playoff.

Colorado swept the Philadelphia Phillies, 3-0, in the first round, then ousted the Arizona Diamondbacks, 4-0, in the National League Championship Series.

At Fenway Park, the Rockies will run into a Boston Red Sox team that has a short but vital streak of its own going.

After falling into a 3-1 hole against the Cleveland Indians in the American League Championship Series, the Red Sox won three games in a row to book their World Series berth.

The Red Sox outscored the Indians 30-5 in the last three games.

Boston manager Terry Francona chalked up the turnaround to "a lot of good players doing a lot of special things."

"I think that in games of huge magnitude, our guys don't get overwhelmed," Francona said. "It doesn't ensure that you're going to win, but it is a good feeling."

As that drama played out, the Rockies had a week to wait and wonder who they would face for Major League Baseball's championship.

While their eight-day layoff sparked fears of a letdown, the Rockies insisted that the magnitude of a first World Series appearance for the franchise founded in 1993 was enough to keep them sharp.

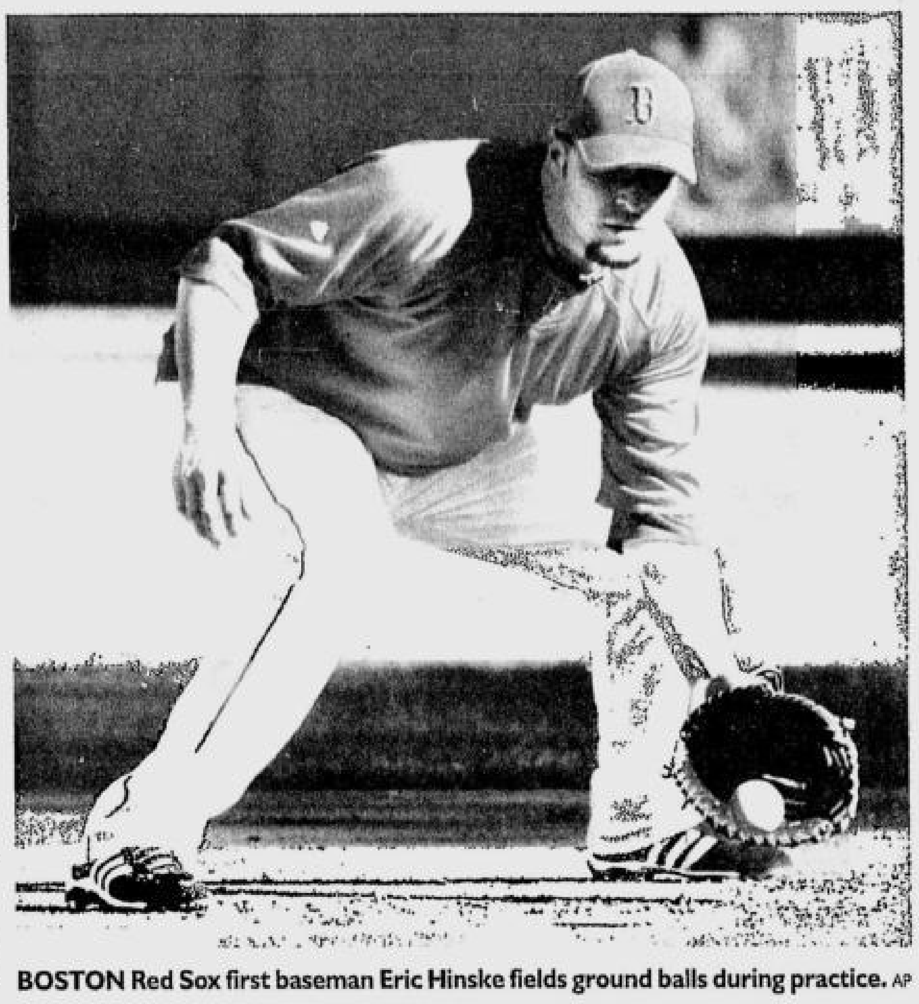
"We're going to the World Series," said first baseman Todd Helton. "It's totally different. The playoffs is one thing. But to actually get to go the World Series...

"You always dream," Helton said. "You always hope. You always imagine. But you really don't know how good it is until you get here."

Now that they have arrived, however, the Rockies face a daunting task against a storied franchise that won the five of the first 15 World Series, including the inaugural Fall Classic in 1903.

They hadn't won the World Series since 1918 until a triumph in 2004 ended an 86-year drought.

While the Red Sox boast a wealth of World Series experience, Colorado outfielder Jamey Carroll said a lack of such experience might actually benefit the Rockies. *AFP*



BOSTON Red Sox first baseman Eric Hinske fields ground balls during practice. AP

Draw the line, PBA coaches tell referees

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PROBLEM WITH THE NEW OFFICIATING rules being implemented in the Philippine Basketball Association is, ironically, rooted in an old one.

And the coaches believe that the results of the rules' new implementation—hard, deliberate fouls, suspensions and ejections—are enough of a sign to show that inconsistency is rearing its ugly head again.

"[Calling a foul] has become a guessing game among referees," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who was suspended one game for vehemently protesting the referees' conduct in front of the league's technical committee. *(See related story on A28).*

Just five game days into the Philippine Cup, the new rules seem to be getting a lot of flak.

"What are we trying to sell here, high-scoring games or the UFC (martial arts event)?" Guiao asked the INQUIRER.

Guiao, along with the other coaches, were briefed on the rule changes before the opening of the tournament. But a lot of the coaches told the INQUIRER yesterday that what they assumed from those talks was that the hand-check rule would only be relaxed.

"They told us that as long as it is in a normal basketball action, it is OK," Talk 'N Text's Derrick Pumaren said. "But a lot has not been of normal basketball action and players are getting hurt out there."

"We went from one extreme to another—from those touch fouls being called to hard fouls being let go," Guiao added.

Bo Perasol of Air21 believes that the fault is not entirely to be put on the referees, because "they are only being asked to implement what the bosses want implemented."

Ryan Gregorio of Purefoods agrees, saying that what he saw in his first game, against Sta. Lucia, "looked like a basketbrawl."

The board was set to meet yesterday to talk, among other things, about the new rules.

"There's no reason to worry," said PBA officer-in-charge Renauld Barrios. "The rule changes weren't meant to harm any player."

Raikkonen win gives F1 season perfect ending

FINNISH Formula One driver Kimi Raikkonen celebrates his F1 world title. Lewis Hamilton beating Raikkonen on appeal would be "cruel." AFP

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—IT WAS A FITTING climax to a dramatic season.

The Brazilian Grand Prix followed form with an upset finish—Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari taking the final race of the season to vault past McLaren teammates Lewis Hamilton and two-time world champion Fernando Alonso for the title in the tightest race for the Formula One championship in 21 years.

The McLaren drivers entered the season-ending race atop the drivers' championship, but Hamilton went off the track in the first lap and suffered a subsequent gear box problem, and Alonso simply couldn't keep up. That gave Raikkonen the opportunity to claim his first Formula One title by one point.

"It has been a long season and it is hard to realize that we finally did it," Raikkonen said. "We managed to come back and win it. It is hard to believe that it happened."

The title made up for the crowns Raikkonen missed out on when he finished runner-up in 2003 and 2005.

"It's a great feeling," Raikkonen said. "Two times were quite close, but it never really happened. This year, it looked like it was getting away again. But we have a great team, so we put everything together and just believed in ourselves and worked."

It was the first time since 1986 that three drivers reached the final race in contention for the title—when Alain Prost edged Nigel Mansell and Nelson Piquet to win the championship.

But in a twist typical of the 2007 season, the Finn had to wait nearly six hours to confirm the result.

Motorsport governing body FIA immediately investigated possible fuel irregularities involving BMW-Sauber and Williams, whose drivers finished fourth, fifth, sixth and 10th in the race. If at least two of them were punished, Hamilton could have moved from seventh to fifth and taken the title.

FIA eventually said there was not enough evidence to penalize the drivers or the teams, but it still isn't settled.

'I want to win on track'

Hamilton said on Monday he wanted to win the Formula One title on the racetrack, not weeks later on appeal.

"It would be wrong," said the 22-year-old Briton, still suffering the effects of a heavy night out after letting the title slip from his grasp by one point in Sunday's season-ending race in Brazil.

"For me, I want to win it on the track," he said. "Being promoted after some people have been thrown out is not the way I want to do it."

"It would feel weird after Kimi did such a fantastic job in the last two races," he added. "He won yesterday and to have it taken away is a bit cruel and probably not good for the sport."

AP, Reuters

JW, McLaren extend partnership

AS THE ELECTRIFYING 2007 FORMULA 1 season draws to a close, Diageo Philippines, through its Johnnie Walker brand, and Vodaphone McLaren Mercedes will continue to stride forward with an extension of their partnership. The agreement, which will now run through to the end of the 2012 season, will see an increased level of branding and financial support for the team, which this season featured Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso. Ben Anderson, Johnnie Walker global brand director, said, "Diageo and Vodaphone McLaren Mercedes have agreed on the terms of an extended sponsorship of the team by Johnnie Walker. The final agreement is expected to be concluded in the next few days."

aigo 爱国者
JOHNNIE WALKER
BOSS

JOHNNIE Walker will stay with McLaren until 2012

speedo
NATIONAL
triathlon

CHAMPIONS ALL: Winners in the beginners adult category of the 2007 Speedo National Age Group Triathlon in Ayala Alabang Village whooped it up after the awards ceremony. The winners in the ladies' division were Microsoft's Chay Mondejar-Saputil, Sharon Fernandez, Nadia Buenafe, Hilda Nikki Navarro and Joie Ann Lacson while the men's winners were led by Jhon-Jhon Jusay, Francis Rugayon, Carlo Bantola, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya and Enrico Ibana. Trap secretary general Ramon Marchan and Speedo general manager Dharmedra Gupta gave out the medals.

Formoso vows equal football funds sharing

ED FORMOSO, THE PUBLICIST, PROmoter and markèter of the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) who is running for the organization's presidency, has promised to spread the wealth among the PFF's 32 affiliate Provincial Football Associations (PFAs) if he wins the elections scheduled next month.

The RP soccer body regularly receives financial assistance from the International Football Federation or Fifa, and other international football organizations, which Formoso said should reach the PFF's provincial members.

"If I should win the November elections, the funds given by the Fifa and others to the Philippine Football Federation will be divided equally among the 32-member football associations," he said. "I believe that this is the only way that the 32 PFAs will be able to grow and sustain football in their areas of responsibility."

Gabe sparks Hapee...

From page A27

Fresh off the Green Archers' UAAP championship run, Tang halted the RP squad's late run with back-to-back triples to push Batang Pier ahead, 83-70, with 2:10 minutes remaining.

National coach Junel Baculi openly expressed his displeasure with his wards, who will leave for the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December after their PBL stint.

"The players took it easy, they were too relaxed," said Baculi. "But that's the purpose of our tune-up games in the PBL. We have to correct everything. We didn't defend. It's all our fault, no excuses."

Tang shot 9-of-16 from the field, while Fil-Am guard Solomon Mercado contributed 13 markers and five assists.

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 83—Tang 26, Mercado 13, Maierhofer 8, Asoro 8, Vergara 8, Gaco 6, Malabanan 6, Jahnke 4, Gamboa 2, Taylor 2, Ababou 0, Gonzales 0, Cañizares 0.

RP TEAM 74—Castro 19, Belga 11, Alonzo 10, Crisano 9, Chan 8, Dela Cuesta 6, Salangsang 3, Cruz 3, Cabahug 3, Bautista 2, Tan 0, Fernandez 0.

Quarters: 18-25, 46-46, 70-61, 83-74

Second Game

HAPEE 80—Rodriguez 17, Borboran 15, Grijaldo 14, Norwood 10, Mercado 8, Juntilla 7, Saguindel 3, Espiritu 2, Hugnatan 2, Viray 2, Quinday 0, Daa 0.

MAIL AND MORE 74—Bonus 14, Misa 13, David 12, Gregorio 8, Bravo 7, Baracael 5, Canlas 4, Javier 4, Ballesteros 3, Arellano 2, White 2, Masbang 0, Bauzon 0.

Quarters: 28-17, 44-36, 63-55, 80-74

SPORTS

UNIVERSITY GAMES

Manila squads flaunt strength

By Cedelf P. Tupas, *Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—THE ONSLAUGHT OF MANILA teams continued yesterday with Ateneo and Far Eastern University recording comprehensive victories in the men's basketball tournament of the 12th Philippine University Games here.

Rabeh Al-Hussaini came away with 19 points to power the Eagles past Foundation University, 83-36, and push them on top of group A at the West Negros College Gym.

The Tamaraws, drawing double-digit outputs from Aldrich Ramos, Paul Sanga and Sunny Abaring, whipped Ateneo De Davao, 89-58, for the solo lead in bracket B. USLS trounced University of Iloilo, 68-56, in the other group match.

Pacing group D was La Carlota City College, which followed up its 108-96 triumph over Ateneo De Zamboanga with an 83-77 conquest of Asian College of Science and Technology.

St. Francis of Assisi College also got off to a victorious start, drubbing ACSAT, 89-66, in group B, while Lyceum routed Xavier University, 81-66.

The Manila schools also proved superior in other fronts with De La Salle's women's football team registering an imperious 21-0 victory of WNC and St. Benilde winning over UI in men's volleyball.

Stung by a five-set loss to UI Monday, Ateneo bounced back with a 25-12, 25-4, 25-21 rout of Silliman University, before UP posted a 25-14, 25-11, 21-25, 25-17 decision over Ateneo de Davao. Sto. Tomas also barged into the win column by beating Iloilo Doctor's College, 25-20, 25-19, 25-23.

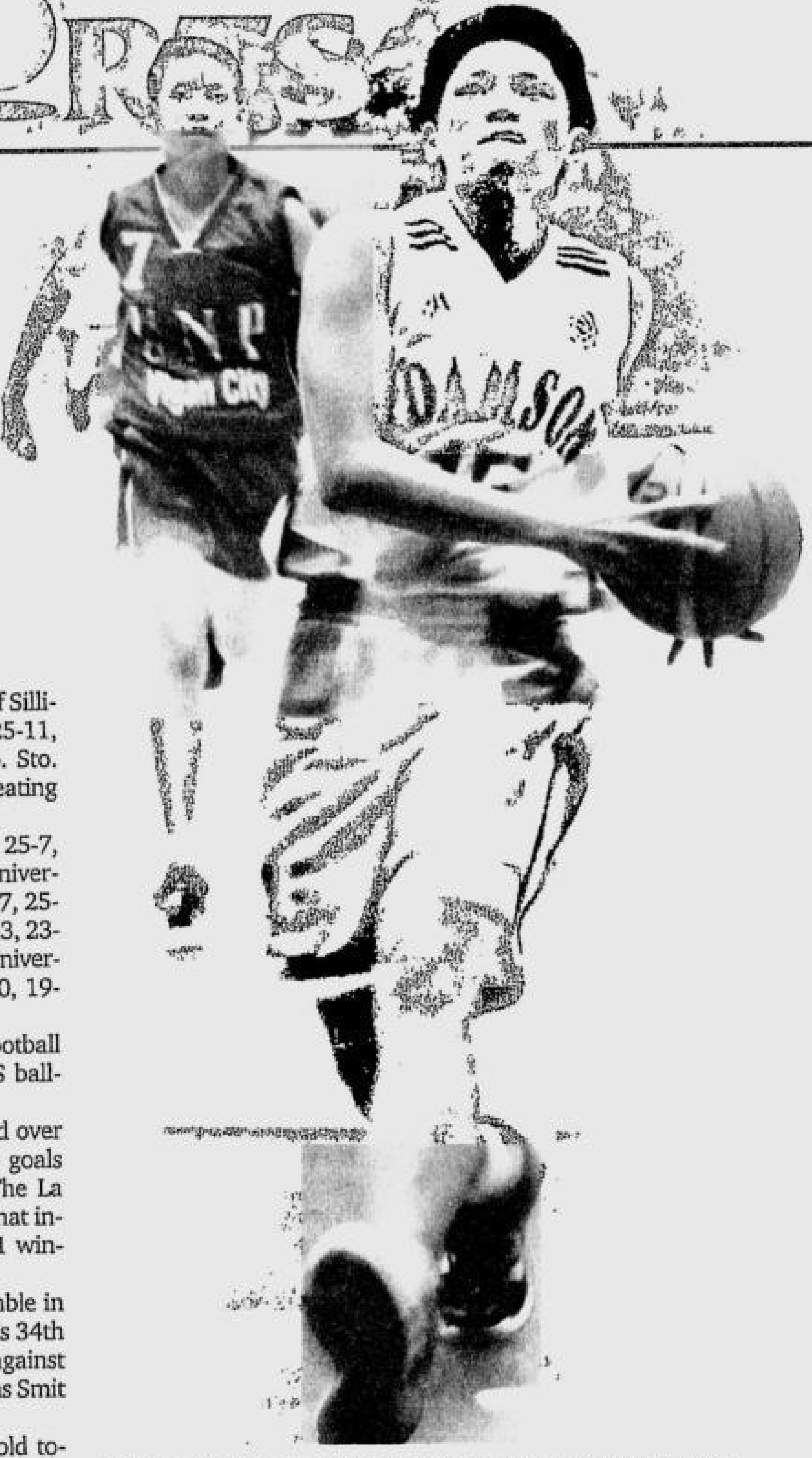
In the women's division, UP opened with a 25-7, 25-10, 25-15, 25-22 smashing of Holy Angel University, Adamson defeated Assumption, 25-9, 25-7, 25-12, USLS nipped De La Salle-Lipa, 23-25, 25-23, 23-25, 25-23, 15-10 and Negros Oriental State University walloped Assumption, 25-8, 25-27, 25-20, 19-25, 15-6.

Joining De La Salle on top in women's football was FU, which shut out UP, 3-0, at the USLS ballfield.

Over at the Panaad pitch, La Salle prevailed over University of San Carlos, 4-1, thanks to two goals from SEA Games veteran Arnie Pasinabo. The La Sallians improved to 2-0 in the tough group that includes favorite University of Mindanao, a 2-1 winner over Foundation U Monday.

Paolo Villa pounced on a goalmouth scramble in the 81st minute to cancel out Robert Canedo's 34th minute header as De La Salle rescued a point against West Negros, a draw that left DLSU coach Hans Smit "very satisfied".

Athletics and swimming competitions unfold today with FEU, UST, De La Salle and San Beda expected to contend for medals.



ADAMSON'S Daphny Tecson drives to the basket against the University of Northern Philippines. The Lady Falcons won, 101-47.

Sinag gains 11th place in solar tilt

SINAG, THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST fully functional solar car, jumped to 11th place 400km away from the halfway point on its historic campaign in the World Solar Challenge in Australia Tuesday.

According to Sinag's technical personnel, the car has been performing better than expected since the start of the race Sunday, maintaining its pace as it makes its way to Alice Springs, the course's halfway point.

Sinag, designed and built by faculty and students from the Mechanical Engineering and Electronics and Communications Engineering Departments of De La Salle University-Manila, easily surpassed the 1,000-km mark without needing to rely on auxiliary power, an option which, although allowed by contest rules, would result to a reduction of the team's overall score.

Team Sinag has also managed to correct a minor problem with the car's brake system, which has caused Sinag's tires to wear out faster than expected, prompting frequent tire changes. Since then, the team has experienced no major technical difficulties and has more than made up for lost time.

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Sportswriters' Olympic Dream Project draws strong support

SUPPORT FOR THE PHILIPPINE Sportswriters Association's My Olympic Dream Project, in cooperation with Brickroad Fitness and Aspen Spas, yesterday snowballed with shoe and sports apparel maker Accel and Informatics International College-Cainta throwing their support to PSA efforts to raise P2 million for the benefit of Filipino athletes competing in next year's Beijing Olympics.

Accel president Willy Ortiz and Informatics International College central business manager Carlota Daza signed an agreement with PSA president Aldrin Cardona and Brickroad Fitness and Aspen Spas General Manager Kristine Mae Robles to help raise the funds through ticket selling and other promotional campaigns related to the project.

Accel and Informatics' involvement boosted the private sector's participation in the fundraiser with Green Nature Resort, Readymix Construction, Uber Salon, Sta. Lucia Mall and China Bank-Sta. Lucia Branch already pitching in resources and services for the PSA project.

Brickroad Fitness and Aspen Spas is also the main sponsor of the PSA's sports and fellowship activities, with the first two legs of the PSA golf tournament already held at the Orchard Golf and Country Club and at the Luisita Golf and Country Club.

A bowling tournament will be held in November while a billiards tournament is next in line.

"Accel believes in this endeavor by the PSA and we are one in supporting this activity for the benefit of the Filipino athletes," Ortiz said.

Meanwhile, Daza said: "Our management, faculty and students have united to cheer our athletes in Beijing."

My Olympic Dream tickets, costing P50 each, will give holders a chance to win a trip to Beijing and watch some Olympic events.

Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said funds to be generated from My Olympic Dream will be coursed through the POC budget for the Filipino athletes nutritional program.

RP cyclists seek better SEAG finish

FILIPINO CYCLISTS VOW TO DO better come the 24th Southeast Asian Games in Thailand.

With veterans Victor Espiritu, Lloyd Reynante and Ronald Gorrantes back into the national fold and Fil-Am rider Steve Pelaez finally getting a taste of what SEA Games competition is all about, coach Jumel Lorenzo is confident the crack 19-man cycling squad will be able to surpass its 2-gold, 4-silver and 3-bronze medal haul when the country hosted the biennial meet two years ago.

"We're looking at surpassing our performance in the Manila SEA Games," said Lorenzo in the PSA Forum yesterday at Shakers UN Ave. "Our present team is stronger."

In the 2003 Vietnam SEA Games, the Filipino cyclists bagged a gold courtesy of Eusebio Quinones, 3 silvers and 2 bronze medals.

Espiritu, Pelaez and Catalan, who were also present in the forum, expressed their readiness for the SEA Games slated Dec. 5-16 in Nakhonratchasima, with Bangkok and Pattaya serving as satellite venues.

"I'm capable of a repeat (victory)," said Catalan, the defending champion in the 4 km men's individual pursuit and one of two gold medal winners for the country in the 2005 SEA Games.

CEREMONIAL MOVES: QC Councilor Ariel Inton and Grandmaster Eugene Torre make the ceremonial moves during the 5th leg of the NCFP Executive and Professional Chess Challenge at the Boracay Club last Saturday. Looking on are NCFP executive director lawyer Sammy Estimo, players and sponsors of the event.

Muntinlupa agrees to host National Inter-Cities chess

THE COUNTRY'S TOP WOODPUSHERS will banner their respective teams when the 2008 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championship gets underway on March 11-16 at the Muntinlupa City People's Center in Muntinlupa City.

Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio, Mark Paragua, Darwin Laylo, Nelson Mariano II and Bong Villamayor and International Master Wesley So are expected to participate in the 11-round Swiss System Tournament which offers P200,000 to the winning team.

Unheralded Carrascal (Surigao del Sur) stunned Alabang (Muntinlupa "V") to top last year's edition held in Davao City. Powerhouse Tagaytay, the 2005 titlist, wound up third.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines executive director lawyer Samuel Estimo yesterday said Muntinlupa City Mayor Aldrin San Pedro agreed to bankroll the P600,000 annual event over the weekend.

"This early, we are enjoining the players to form their respective teams," said Estimo.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2007

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SMC buys 34% of Bank of Commerce

Investment made through property unit, retirement fund

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD AND BEVERAGE GIANT SAN MIGUEL CORP., THROUGH real estate subsidiary San Miguel Properties Inc. and the SMC Retirement Fund, is acquiring a 34-percent stake in Bank of Commerce for P2 billion.

Bank of Commerce is led by Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, a nephew of SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

SMPI and SMC Retirement have signed a subscription agreement with Bank of Commerce wherein the former will subscribe to 10 million unissued and unsubscribed common shares at P200 each. The block represents 34 percent of the bank's total outstanding capital.

The deal is expected to be completed next week.

Since the two SMC units are buying new shares, fresh money will flow into the bank, which will be used to beef up its nationwide network by 30-40 additional branches by 2009 from about 112 branches at present, bank sources said.

Part of the proceeds will also be used to expand the bank's loan portfolio, the sources added. Bank of Commerce has thus joined the bandwagon of local banks beefing up their capital base this year to be able to expand loan portfolios.

SMPI president Jeronimo Kilayko told the INQUIRER that Bank of Commerce would be the retail arm for financing of SMPI as it forays into the competitive residential condominium market.

The alliance will allow the property firm to offer flexible financing schemes to prospective home buyers.

Kilayko said SMPI was planning to embark on its first residential condominium project next year at the old SMC beer warehouse at the corner of Pasay Road and South Expressway. Development of the one-hectare property is estimated to cost P3 billion.

SMPI is also studying a potential project on a three-hectare property in Baguio City owned by SMC. Details of the project were not yet available.

"The (residential condominium) market is big. There's a really big potential. What is more important is how do we address the needs of the market," Kilayko said.

Kilayko added that there was strategic value for a property firm to have an alliance with a bank since it could also open doors

SMC BUYS/ B4

Marketplace & Aw ing Cere
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PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer chair Marixi R. Prieto receives a plaque of recognition from John van Duursen, founder and director of BiD Network Foundation, as a supporting partner of the Philippine Business inDevelopment (BiD) Challenge, during the awarding ceremonies at the SGV Conference Hall in Makati City. Joining the presentation are Philippine BiD Challenge chair David Balangue (left) and PBSP chair Manuel Pangilinan (second from left).

ROMY HOMILLADA

Gov't defers sale of Sucat plant

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIAbilities Management Corp. has put off until 2009 the auction of the decommissioned 850-megawatt (MW) Sucat thermal power plant as the government continues to make repowering the plant a fallback option in case of a supply shortage.

PSALM vice president for asset management and electricity trading Froilan Tampinco said that when the plant is placed on the auction block, the winning bidder would have the option to re-fire the power plant.

Should the need arise—or should there be a supply shortfall at the time of the plant's auction—he said the repowering option would be made mandatory.

"That's a decision that has to be made, whether or not to repower the plant. If there's a need to repower it, we'll make it as a condition that the winning bidder should be able to provide a certain amount of power to the grid," he said.

Converting the plant into a facility that uses a different type of fuel could also be an option, he said.

While this would be quite costly to do, he said the winning bidder could convert the plant to natural gas as this could serve as the anchor load for PNOC Exploration Corp.'s $100-million BatMan-1 natural gas pipeline project.

The pipeline will enable members of the industrial, commercial,

GOV'T DEFERS/ B5

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- **WB unit** disburses $105M loan to Aboitiz Power /B2
- **Atlas Mining** to invest in China nickel venture /B4

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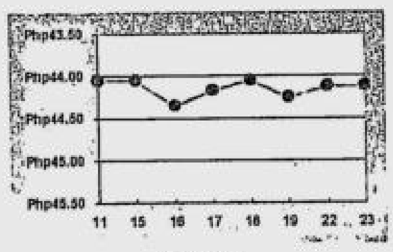

OCTOBER

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STOCK MARKET

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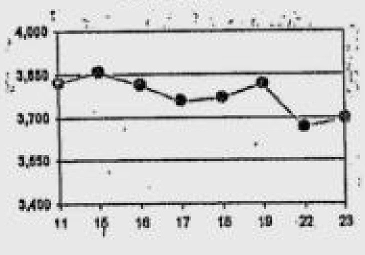

(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARE PRICES closed 0.8-percent higher yesterday as investors chased bargains following a steep plunge in the previous session, dealers said.

They added that Wall Street's rebound overnight also helped boost sentiment.

The composite index added 29.30 points to 3,697.17 off a high of 3,729.40. The broader all-share index rose 11.25 points or 0.5 percent to 2,304.05.

Gainers beat losers 58 to 45, while 53 stocks ended unchanged. Volume totaled 3.2 billion shares worth P3.7 billion.

"The market is still very volatile, but it is showing some resilience with liquidity pushing up the market," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

Although trading was thin, analysts said it was only because investors chose to pocket gains ahead of shortened trading next week.

Philippine markets will be closed on Oct. 29 for the election of barangay officials all over the country and again on Nov. 1 and 2 for the All Saints Day and All Souls Day holidays.

"Today's rebound was mild, but it showed the market's ability to bounce back because of its strong fundamentals. This attracted foreign funds looking at emerging markets," said Vistan.

The market could gear up for even bigger rallies in the coming sessions if there are new hints that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates further next week, said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

"Concerns about the US economy are already being discounted by the market," he said.

"Investors are now focusing on the Fed meeting next week and expectations of another trimming of rates will boost the market, along with better corporate earnings."

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's biggest company by market value, added P20 to P3,035. Ayala Land Inc. gained 25 centavos to P16.50, bouncing back from its 4.4-percent

SHARES/ B4

Outright exemption from excise tax to be lifted

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF Internal Revenue is set to lift the outright exemption from the excise tax enjoyed by manufacturers of oil and "sin" products intended for exports.

Under a draft revenue regulation, the BIR said exporters would still enjoy tax benefits, but the process of claiming the incentives would change. The BIR said the manner of granting incentives should be tightened because the government was losing revenue from false claims of exports.

Under the plan, manufacturers should first pay an excise tax before they are allowed to bring out goods from their production facilities. The BIR assigns officers to manufacturing plants for products covered by the excise tax, including alcohol, cigarettes and oil.

The manufacturers should then present proof to the BIR that the goods were exported. After they have submitted the required documents that prove the ex-

OUTRIGHT/ B4

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WB unit disburses $105-M loan to Aboitiz Power

IFC enables firm to fund Magat facility

By Abigail L. Ho

THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORP., THE private sector arm of the World Bank, yesterday disbursed its $105-million loan to SN Aboitiz Power Inc. (Snap), enabling the Aboitiz Power Corp. subsidiary to finance part of the balance of its $530-million 360-megawatt (MW) Magat hydropower facility.

For the Magat project, IFC is providing longer term financing than what is currently available on commercial terms. It is also acting as an anchor lender to allow Snap to raise additional financing from foreign and local banks.

"IFC is committed to supporting local and global players and helping enhance their capacity to invest in strategic industries," IFC director for infrastructure Rashad Kaldany said. "This project is particularly important as it provides proof of concept of a successful privatization of a large-scale merchant hydropower project for other East Asian countries that are hesitant to embark on similar sector reforms."

For his part, IFC acting country manager Jesse Ang said the success of the government's efforts to privatize assets of the National Power Corp. would help sustain power sector reforms in the country.

This would likewise lead to the long-term success of the wholesale electricity spot market.

"This is also an excellent example of how IFC is helping the country's economic growth and development," Ang said.

The $105-million IFC loan is part of a $380-million loan that Snap secured to partially finance the balance of the Magat plant in Isabela.

The loan came from a consortium of local and international financial institutions, including the IFC, Nordic Investment Bank, Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands, China Banking Corp., Development Bank of the Philippines, The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd., Philippine National Bank and Security Bank.

The $380-million loan is composed of a dollar component worth up to $160 million, and a peso tranche worth up to P11.5 billion.

The loan will partly finance the deferred balance of the winning bid price for the Magat plant, as well as refinance a $159-million loan from Aboitiz Equity Ventures plus shareholders' advances, in relation to the purchase of the Napocor asset.

"Through the success of the Magat privatization, we hope to create a positive demonstration effect and help the Philippine government in its effort to catalyze further private sector investment in the power sector," Aboitiz Power chair Jon Ramon Aboitiz said.

RCBC net profits surge to P2.52B in first 9 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORP. posted a consolidated net profit of P2.52 billion in the first nine months, more than double the P1.16 billion windfall in the same period last year.

The Yuchengco-led bank yesterday announced that the nine-month profits had exceeded the P2.05 billion of last year.

Also, the bank reported that it had already breached its full-year net income target of P2.5 billion.

In a statement, RCBC president and CEO Lorenzo Tan said he was pleased with the bank's momentum in consumer, corporate, investment banking and bancassurance businesses.

"We're beginning to see the benefits of the structural, operational and capital improvements which were initiated 24 months ago, leading to the successful P5.6 billion public offering in March of 2007," Tan said.

The bank's total resources reached P226.36 billion by the end of September 2007—an increase of P17.10 billion or 8.2 percent from the same month last year.

With loan portfolio at P93.09 billion as of September 2007, the bank registered a 20-percent growth from the bank's 2006 loan portfolio of P77.59 billion.

The bank's total deposits grew to P158.1 billion, 5.3 percent higher than the P150 billion level as of September last year.

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Filipino vegetable and rice farmers were chosen by global giant DuPont as the first in the world to enjoy the breakthrough benefits of Prevathon®, a new environment-friendly pesticide classified as Eco-4, or the most environmentally safe, by the US Department of Agriculture. "We expect Filipino farmers in Northern Luzon to get the world's first stocks of Prevathon® this week, just in time to protect what looks like very promising harvests of Pangasinan and Benguet vegetable farmers this peak Christmas season," says Gerry Garcia, Country Business Manager of DuPont Crop Protection, Du Pont Far East Inc.

Prevathon®, powered by Rynaxypyr™, a new molecule developed by DuPont scientists, has already been tested in Philippine conditions. It has been registered with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) for use in eggplant, cabbage, string beans, and rice. In test farms amongst eggplant farmers in Central Luzon, Prevathon® increased marketable yields substantially. The test farm showed healthier, sturdier, and greener plants that had more flowers and fruits and less pest damage, compared to the control farm which had been sprayed with commonly used insecticides.

Amongst eggplant growers, Prevathon® has proven to be extremely effective against shoot/fruit borers, a persistent pest that can severely reduce the farmer's harvest if not controlled. Today vegetable growers have a better fighting chance.

With Prevathon® they can protect their investment, sustain their livelihood, and look forward to a better future.

That's because farmer cooperators using Prevathon® ended with fewer spray cycles and longer spray intervals, thereby saving on production costs. At the same time, farmers experienced higher marketable yields due to healthier plants and more eggplants produced. The use of less spray also reduces environmental loading, thus protecting the farm's ecological balance.

"With the introduction of Prevathon® in our market, we're confident that Filipino farmers can enjoy protection against pests at the same time gain more income from increased marketable yields," continues Garcia. "We are privileged to be the first country to bring the benefits of Prevathon® to growers."

DuPont is a science-based products and services company. Founded in 1802, DuPont puts science to work by creating sustainable solutions essential to a better, safer, healthier life for people everywhere. Operating in more than 70 countries and regions, DuPont offers a wide range of innovative products and services for markets including agriculture and food; building and construction; communications; and transportation.

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Program Outline:
DAY ONE
1: BASELINE: The TRUST Process and Ziglar Selling Principles
2: THINK: Prospecting, Managing Leads and General Benefit Statements
3: RELATE: P.D.G.O. Sales Call Etiquette and Sales Objectives
4: UNCOVER THE NEEDS: Determining Needs, Asking Criteria Questions and Moving Prospects Off of Status Quo
5: SELL THE SOLUTION. Features, Functions, Benefits; Creating Urgency and Presentation Tips
6: TAKE ACTION: C.E.T.A.A. Method, How and When to Close and Trial Closes

DAY TWO
1: OBJECTIONS CLINIC. Overcoming, Practicing and Learning from Others
2: SELLING TO DIFFERENT STYLES: 4 Common Styles, How to Communicate and How to Personalize
3: TIME MANAGEMENT: Using Technology, Organization and Increasing Productivity
4: PROSPECTING: The Initial Contact, Creating a Prospect List and Asking for Referrals
5: CLOSING CLINIC: Overcoming Closing Reluctance, Using Trial Closes Effectively, Improving Closing Techniques and Servicing the Sale

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P9,477+VAT – best buy rate (Oct 17 to Oct 22)
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P12,477+VAT – regular corporate (starting November 1)
P15,477+VAT – walk-in rate

"Every sale has five basic obstacles: no need, no money, no hurry, no desire, no trust." - Zig Ziglar

2 Top Performance Seminar
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Edsa Shangri-La Hotel
TOP PERFORMANCE

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- Building a Foundation
- Choosing to Be a Top Performer
- Causing Others to Want Your Leadership
- Look for the Good
- Expect the Best
- "Wait for Me, I'm your Leader!"
- People Just Don't Care

Session 2: The Science of Top Performance
- "But I Thought You Said ..."
- Recognizing, Rewarding, and Role Modeling for Top Performance
- Getting to Know You... and Me, Too!
- Management Gems

Session 3: Motivating the Top Performer
- A Formula for Motivation
- Why You Manage... Why They Follow
- Managing Productivity
- Education to Overcome Management Paralysis
- The Secret to Management Motivation
- It Takes Time

LEARNING INVESTMENT:
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"You can have everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want!" - Zig Ziglar

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DA bankrolls construction of 484 km of farm-to-market roads

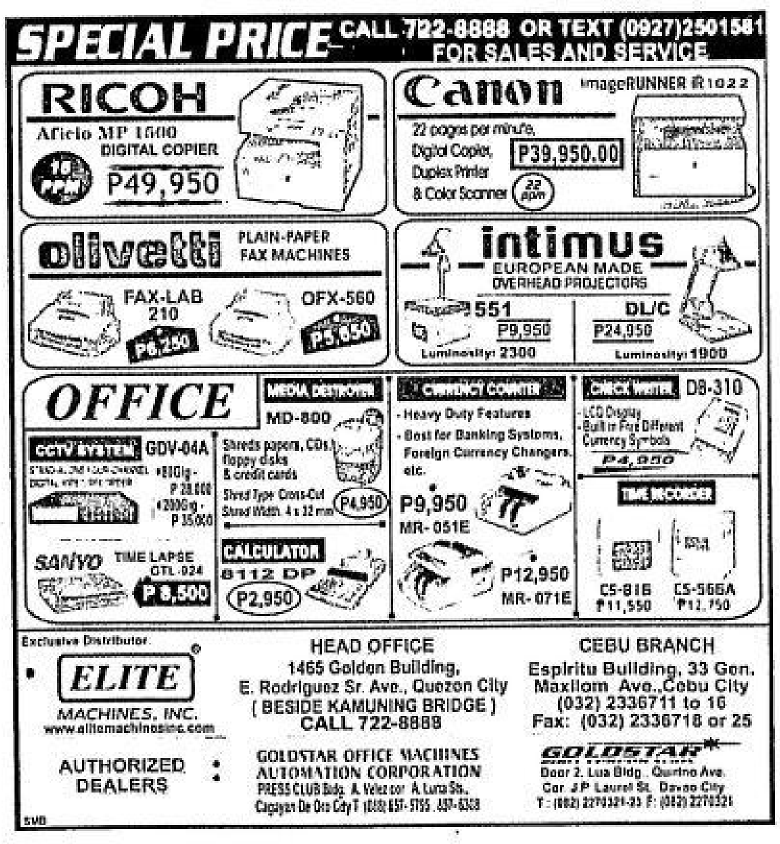
By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is constructing this month another 484 kilometers of farm-to-market roads.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said that as farm-to-market roads allow farmers and fisherfolk to bring produce faster to wet markets and distribution centers, losses due to transport spoilage can be reduced.

The construction of 346 km of roads was funded under the DA's regular program for farm-to-market roads, while the rest will be put up using a combination of foreign assistance and local funds.

As of June this year, the DA has constructed 905 km of farm-to-market roads stretching across the country's super regions—the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, Metro Luzon Urban Beltway, Central Philippines and Agribusiness Mindanao.



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B2B e-TRADE
Date: Wednesday - 07 November 2007 Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Venue: Station 168, 2F ChinaBank Bldg., Makati Ave. cor. Hercules St., Makati City
AN INVITATION TO PHILIPPINE IMPORTERS-DISTRIBUTORS-BUYERS TO CYBER MEET WITH KOREAN SUPPLIERS ON A WIDE RANGE OF BUSINESS PROSPECTS

A. MEDICAL / HEALTH/ WELLNESS/ BEAUTY EQUIPMENTS AND SUPPLIES	
Nutra R&BT Inc.	Fiber/Low Calorie Diet Food Supplement with HCA for Obesity Prevention
Changeui Medical Co.	Ambulatory Traction Device for Neck, Knee, Waist and Hip Rehab
Hurev Co. Ltd.	Medical Electrodes (ECG, etc.) & Sensors, Pad-Ems /Tens, LF Stimulators
Jin-Asia Corporation	Disposable Respirators for Particulates, Toxic, Dust, Fumes, Pest Sprays
Mow Medical	Ambu Bag, Silicone Resuscitators, Nasal/Resuscitation Masks, O2 Mask
Musetec Co. Ltd.	Ultrasound / Electrical Stimulation Massager, LMT Combinational Sys.
Samson Corporation	Electro Therapy (ICT /Tens),Ultrasound, Laser/Magnetic/Radar, Stimulator
DaeyoungGongBang	Facial Silver Massager for Cleansing, Blood Circulation, Healthy Face
JJ Hair Korea	Hair Perm Equipt, Henna Hair Manicure, Massager, Massage Shampoo
MCure Co. Ltd.	Mesotherapy Injector, Auto MTS for Hospitals, Aesthetic/Beauty Shops
B. ELECTRONICS, ELECTRICAL AND RELATED PRODUCTS	
JP Lighting Inc.	Lighting Systems for Industrial, House Interior / Exterior and Office Use
Phoenix Technologies	Density Integrated Measuring and Control Systems (DIMAC)
Sam Jeon Co., Ltd.	LCD Monitor with Built-in DVR System, Security Equipments
TSC Systems	Digital Home Network, Ubiquitous Sensor Network, Zone Based
Unilam Co., Ltd.	UV (Ultraviolet) Lamp for Display, Semicon, PCB, Printing, others
C. CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING, HARDWARE, HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES	
Ace Korea Inc.	Auto Double Belt Press for Sludge Dewatering Machines
Aquacell Co., Ltd.	Wastewater Treatment, Electrolysis Disinfection, Odor Treatment
Chang Shin Int'l Co.	Pneumatic Hammer, Augur Bits, Tricone Bit, Drilling Rig, Roof Piling M/C
Cheong-ki Airtech	Top drain, Air trap for Compressed Condensates
Dong Joo Welding	Welding Consumable, Plasma Cutting M/C & Consumable
Korea Hydraulic Co.	Motor Pump & Accessories, Liquid Pressure Unit, Portable / Adaptable
KTCC Global	Super Oxidized Water-HOCL-based disinfectant , Med Virus disinfectant
Nano Motion Technology	BLDC Motor, Linear
Senko Co. Ltd.	Portable Gas Detector, Electrochemical Gas Sensor, Breath CO Monitor
VU Link Co., Ltd.	Multi Monitor Arm/Dual Monitor stand, Bracket, Multi surveillance display
Daelim Bidet Co.	Toilet Bidet, Turbo Wash System with Various Features
D. OTHER PRODUCTS / SERVICES	
iCastle Korea Co., Ltd.	Edutainment Services, Creative Education Program for Children/Youth
Interpr Inc.	3D Puzzle , Pop-out Educational Toys
Jeung Won Machine	Automobile Gear Set, Transmission Gear and Shaft
SYP Co., Ltd.	Clover-Leaf Inspired Necklace, Key Holder, Phone Strap/Accessories

Select priority companies/ products and confirm with Korea Trade Center before October 31. Contact *Charlie Alveyra or Jane Valencia* at Tel #s 893-1183 or 893-3244, Fax #s: 817-3369 or 751-4358, or E-Mail: charlie.kotramanila@yahoo.com.ph / charlie.ktcmanila@gmail.com.
Individual Cyber Meetings will have an average of one hour per session.

Victimized in a Moment

How PLDT SWUP ~~Nullifies~~ Credit Card Fraud

Three seconds...that's all it takes to steal your credit card's vital transaction data. That's about the time it takes to swipe or run your card through a "skimming" machine that basically lifts all your card's information. All it took was for you to hand your card over to a complete stranger, usually a waiter or waitress or other service staff and take it out of your sight for a few crucial minutes.

There are syndicates that use such skimming machines which essentially make duplicates of your card with a cloned magnetic strip. One victim was duped to the tune of more than P64,000 in a few days.

Deadly Insider's Strategy

These syndicates operate with a simple insider strategy, that is, they have someone working in cahoots with them inside certain establishments, usually waiters, waitresses and even cashiers. These partners in crime receive a commission of anywhere between P500 to P700 per card they run through the skimming machine.

Three seconds... that's all it takes to steal your credit card's vital transaction data.

Merchants Worry Too

Merchants also have their reputations and their operations to protect. One bar owner even made a police complaint in behalf of a customer who pointed out that unauthorized transactions soon popped up on his bill right after using his card at the bar. Sure enough it was a waiter exposed as the culprit. Establishments where such fraudulent transactions have been made can have payments contested, dishonored or otherwise invalidated. Clearly, it's a huge pain for everyone involved.

No less than Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo herself has declared credit card fraud as a form of "economic sabotage" that may pose a danger to the country's image and reputation. In 2006 she formed the Anti-Fraud Task Force composed of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police to strengthen Republic Act 8484, or the Access Device Regulation Act of 1998. By that time credit card fraud amounted to less than 1% of total transactions but it was still enough for the CCAP (Credit Card Association of the Philippines) to grow increasingly concerned. The President's timely move was greeted with thankfulness and relief on the industry's part.

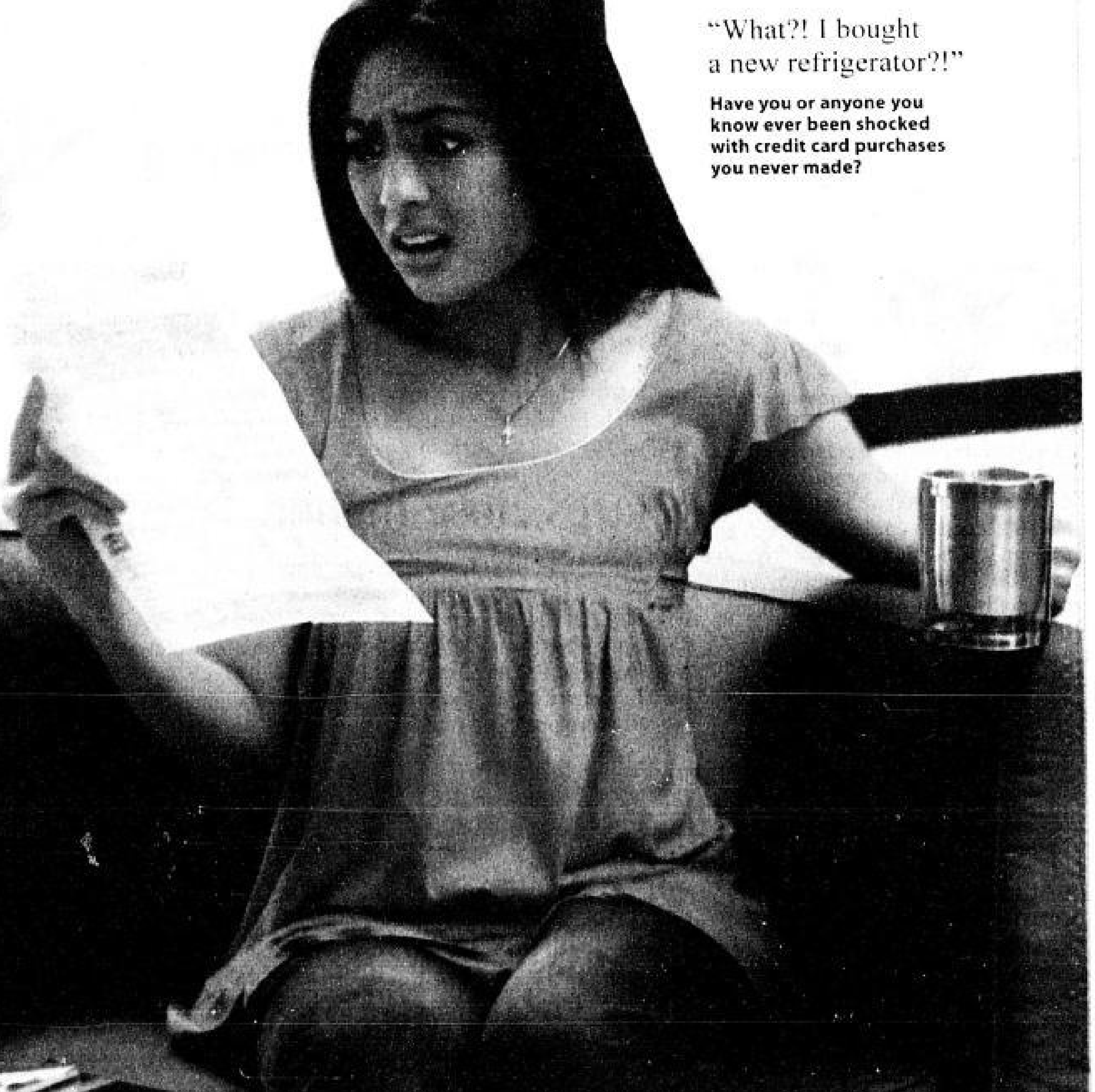
The SWUP Answer

By eliminating the time-window for fraud, PLDT SWUP (Shops.Work UnPlugged) effectively reduces opportunities for scammers and their cohorts. SWUP's pay-at-table wireless credit and debit card swipe machines don't require you to hand over your card to be processed out of your sight. Instead the entire transaction is completed right in front of you, processed instantly and wirelessly.

SWUP wireless card swipe terminals can process payments from Visa, MasterCard, JCB and Amex through the Equitable Card Network, the largest in the country, so transactions are now more convenient than ever. Business owners can now deploy SWUP on site, no matter where their stores may be. This means they can accept plastic in their remote branches and seize the opportunity to make more sales.

For customers, it gives them even more buying power as their cards are accepted at more locations and establishments. Conversely, for business it means a greater actual customer base.

Such PLDT innovations wipe out fraud opportunities with a simple application. Just as fraudsters are relentless, PLDT continues to stay several steps ahead with responsive technology.



"What?! I bought a new refrigerator?!"
Have you or anyone you know ever been shocked with credit card purchases you never made?

Trust Me, Trust Me Not? 3 seconds - or about that time it takes to swipe a card - is all it takes for fraudsters to steal your credit card information

Merchants watch out! Fraudulent transactions may be deemed invalid or left unpaid.

Atlas Mining to invest in China nickel venture

By Amy R. Remo

LISTED FIRM ATLAS CONSOLIDATED Mining and Development Corp. said it was set to invest in a new company to process nickel ores through its investment in Berong Nickel Corp.

Considered as the fourth biggest source of nickel ore deposit in the world, the mining site in Berong, Palawan, is under a joint-venture partnership among Atlas, Toledo Mining Corp. and Australian mining firm Investika.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, Atlas said the company has been "invited to participate pro rata with its Berong partners in the planned acquisition of certain steelmaking facilities to produce nickel pig iron and stainless steel within China."

Due to high nickel prices, some steel makers in China have turned to nickel pig iron as an alternative to refined nickel.

Atlas said that the market for nickel pig iron and stainless steel remained firm and the pricing structure more attractive than simply supplying nickel laterite ore to the market.

"Atlas' share in the value-added processing should result in an improved economic return for the company on ore mined as opposed to existing direct shipping operations," said Martin Buckingham, Atlas executive vice president and chief finance officer.

Buckingham added that an initial entry in China would allow Atlas "to readily assess the cost structure and environmental performance of the integrated steel operations as well as the nickel pig iron technology."

"Based on the knowledge gained, it is the intention of the joint venture to build a similar steel plant in the Philippines," he said.

In the company's disclosure, Atlas said an existing integrated steel plant in Guangxi Province in China has been identified as a possible target for the joint venture.

Berong and its partners intend to perform detailed due diligence in the next six months before making a decision on acquiring the assets, it added.

The steel plant is about three years old and reportedly well maintained, environmentally responsible and produces hot rolled steel bars and billets for the Chinese market.

The plant's assets consist of three blast furnaces (the biggest being 380 cubic meters in capacity), sintering machines, residual heat power plant, oxygen plant, railway access, wharf access and land.

According to Atlas, the proposition was to convert part or all of the steel plant to the production of nickel pig iron and eventually stainless steel.

It is estimated that the plant will require a feedstock of 1.2 million tons of nickel laterite ore a year.

Atlas added that the planned joint venture intended to enter into a long-term contract to supply all the plant's feedstock requirements at prevailing commercial terms.

Smart sells ETPI stake to ISM

By Riza T. Olchondra

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC., the cellular arm of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), has sold its 2.5 million shares in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (ETPI) to ISM Communications Corp.

The transaction was worth P100 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PLDT corporate secretary Ma. Lourdes Rausa-Chan said the transaction involves 2,548,000 class "A" common shares in ETPI.

ISM said the company's P300 million worth of stock rights offering in June would finance the acquisition.

By purchasing Smart's shares, ISM now directly and indirectly controls about 67.5 percent of ETPI.

Last July, ISM bought about 17.7 percent of ETPI through a share-swap agreement with one of the latter's shareholders, Aerocom Investors and Managers Inc. ISM also acquired the 40-percent interest of Australia Gigahertz Network International Pty. Ltd. for $8 million.

Outright ...

From page B1

portation, then the manufacturers can claim tax refunds.

A manufacturer also has the option to use the so-called "replenishment system" if it does not want to regularly go through the process of getting tax refunds.

Under the replenishment system, a manufacturer that has paid the excise tax on products that were proven to have been exported may simply tell the BIR to consider the supposed refund as payment for the next set of products that will be taken out of its production facility.

Besides exported products, manufactured goods that are sold to excise-tax-exempt companies, such as foreign carriers, are currently allowed to leave the production facilities without paying the excise tax. Under the proposed regulation, however, the outright exemption will be removed.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Lilian Hefti said it was time to correct the poor practice of carelessly granting outright exemptions to all firms that claim to be exporters. Under the current practice, which she said had led to revenues leaks, the BIR does not collect excise tax from firms who claim to export their products.

Hefti stressed that the BIR was not trying to remove the incentive, contrary to perceptions of some members of the industries affected by the regulation.

"You should allow the BIR to first verify claims that the articles were really exported. If a law says one thing is exempted, then the burden of proof (that the products were indeed exported and therefore entitled to exemption) should be on your part," Hefti told representatives of oil, cigarette, alcohol and cosmetics companies in a public hearing on the draft revenue regulation held the BIR main office in Quezon City yesterday.

"The exemption should not be granted simply based on your claims. There should be proof of actual exportation," Hefti said.

Next Mobile spending ₱600M for niche offering

By Riza T. Olchondra

NICHE TELCO PLAYER NEXT Mobile Inc. is pouring in P600 million to roll out handset-bundled services targeted at corporate clients.

"We have access to credit through Bancommerce Investment Corp. (BIC). They are looking at half debt and half equity and they have already advanced P100 million. The P500 million will be released by yearend," Next Mobile CEO Mel Velarde told reporters yesterday.

Velarde stressed that Next Mobile was not running after the consumer cellular market already served by the brands Smart, Globe and Sun Cellular. Instead, it is targeting a small but high-profit niche among corporate customers and relatives of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) who could use "untappable" wireless telephone services with location-tracking features.

Next Mobile is providing these services using iDEN (Independent Digital Enhanced Network) technology and handsets developed by Motorola. iDEN combines the features of GSM technology used by Smart, Globe and Sun with digital radio service or push-to-talk. Simply put, it allows business owners to know where their mobile sales forces are located at any given time, can communicate corporate information without fear of eavesdropping, and can remotely troubleshoot handsets used in the field.

"In the enterprise market, they see our service not as a communication expense but an investment. Using GSM (the technology used by Smart, Globe and Sun) they do not know where the money is going but here (with iDEN) they can track the use and the security feature of being untappable protects corporate data," he said.

As for the OFW market, Velarde said the company expects good take-up from relatives of the more than 10 million Filipinos working abroad.

Velarde said the company's revenues were growing as of the third quarter of this year. He declined to give specific figures but said the turnout was good considering that the company was only starting to market its service.

He said the company may not break even this year but expects to see some income as early as next year, depending on market take-up.

SMC buys 34% ...

From page B1

for SMPI to develop foreclosed properties of Bank of Commerce.

Bank of Commerce recently made inroads in African banking by putting up the national bank in the oil-rich Equatorial Guinea. It helped the central African government set up a $5-million bank and acquired a 30-percent stake in Banco Nacional de Guinea Equatorial, the first domestically incorporated bank.

The bank posted its best year in 2006 with a net profit of P596 million against only P160 million a year earlier.

Shares close higher

From page B1

slide in the previous session following an explosion at an Ayala Mall in Makati on Friday that left 11 dead.

Ayala Land's rebound showed there was no widespread panic that could have triggered a bigger sell-off in the property developer, said Francisco Liboro, president of PCCI Securities Corp.

Conglomerate Ayala Corp., the parent company of Ayala Land, added P10 to P560. Bank of the Philippine Islands, another Ayala unit, edged up P1.50 to P66. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

October 23, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.705766	1.000000	44.2640
Japan	Yen	0.006174	0.008748	0.3872
United Kingdom	Pound	1.434258	2.032200	89.9533
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091062	0.129026	5.7112
Switzerland	Franc	0.599377	0.849257	37.5915
Canada	Dollar	0.720979	1.021555	45.2181
Singapore	Dollar	0.481719	0.682547	30.2123
Australia	Dollar	0.619473	0.877732	38.8519
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.872654	2.653364	117.4485
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.188703	0.267373	11.8350
Brunei	Dollar	0.480080	0.680226	30.1095
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022426	0.031776	1.4065
UAE	Dirham	0.192202	0.272331	12.0545
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.416900	62.7177
Korea	Won	0.000770	0.001091	0.0483
China	Yuan**	0.093995	0.133181	5.8951
Denmark	Kroner	0.134187	0.190129	8.4159
India	Rupee	0.017768	0.025176	1.1144
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209240	0.296472	13.1230
New Zealand	Dollar	0.522558	0.740412	32.7736
Sweden	Kroner	0.108737	0.154069	6.8197
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021656	0.030684	1.3582

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 22, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 22, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 23, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.7	12,000
73	41	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	62.5	62.5	61	61	668,500
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	65.5	67	65.5	66	1,067,100
748	528	China Banking Corp.	715	715	705	705	110
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	2,520,000
75.5	44	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	60	61	59	59.5	4,668,600
65.5	34	Philippine National Bank	48.5	48.5	47.5	47.5	318,100
39.57	15.65	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	27	28.5	27	28	2,304,000
90	54.5	Security Bank Corp.	76	76	76	76	43,500
66	44.51	Union Bank of the Philippines	50	50	49.5	49.5	226,100
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	115,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2	2	1.96	1.98	3,877,000
16.25	4.35	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.5	12.5	12	12	738,600
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	40,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	8,130,000
1,885.00	1,570.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,820.00	1,850.00	1,820.00	1,850.00	1,180
5	2.95	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.35	3.45	3.35	3.4	1,067,000
3.1	1.1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2	2	1.94	1.96	13,000
1,130.00	240	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,000.00	1,015.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	26,640
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,300.00	2,310.00	2,300.00	2,310.00	320
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.52	190,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.4	5.4	5	5	7,977,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	63	64.5	61	61.5	1,473,100
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86.5	86.5	86	86	718,400
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.5	16.75	16.25	16.5	3,333,500
105.45	23.18	Manila Electric Co.	78	80	77.5	78	1,084,800
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.1	7.4	7	7.1	9,751,000
6.8	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.5	8,017,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	81,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.4	1,401,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	27,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.78	1.78	316,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	53	52	52	248,900
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.76	160,000
3.8	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.8	710,000
80	58.5	San Miguel Corp. "A"	58.5	59	58.5	59	32,000
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	61.5	61.5	60.5	60.5	62,400
0.66	0.31	Swift Foods Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	60,000
6.5	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5,000
22	14.5	Universal Robina Corp.	15	15	14.5	14.5	4,216,500
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5	5.3	4.9	5.3	5,836,000
21.5	6	Federal Res. Investment Group Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	9,600
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	2,008,000
7	2.1	Republic Cement Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4,000
2	0.43	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.08	1.08	18,260,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.45	4.55	4.4	4.5	593,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
7.4	5.1	Panasonic Manufacturing Phils. Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6,000
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.38	16,860,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.48	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	10,000
0.17	0.032	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.105	0.105	37,800,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc.	0.73	0.74	0.7	0.7	12,910,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.85	2.85	2.65	2.7	460,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.8	134,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	31,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	15,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7	7.2	7	7.1	12,520,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	149,500,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	15,700,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Cons. Resources Inc.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	40,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.18	2.24	2.18	2.24	4,975,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	555	565	555	560	286,240
5.8	1.38	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.35	4.4	4.25	4.25	12,406,000
10.25	4.6	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	427,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	20,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	81,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc.	2.06	2.08	2.04	2.04	222,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11	11	11	11	910,600
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.8	179,000
2.65	1.42	Keppel Phil. Holdings Inc. "B"	2	2	1.82	1.82	14,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.9	7.2	6.3	6.4	11,618,000
8.5	2.9	PAL Holdings Inc	7.2	7.4	7	7	840,000
0.28	0.011	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.205	0.215	0.2	0.205	287,390,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	2,200,000
452.5	258.94	SM Investments Corp.	382.5	385	375	375	480,070
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.4	10,690,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	4,060,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.32	1.36	395,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.6	7.9	7.5	7.5	46,000
19.25	11.67	Ayala Land Inc.	16.25	16.75	16.25	16.5	19,735,700
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.3	2,479,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.25	4.35	252,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	300,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	1,720,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.78	0.76	0.76	12,360,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	17,290,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.04	1.04	13,458,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.78	1.82	1.76	1.78	73,065,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,220,000
0.5	0.12	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	400,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.59	490,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.1	4.15	38,974,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	160,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.34	0.35	900,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.53	0.5	0.51	1,910,000
23	14	Robinson Land Corp.	20	20.5	20	20.25	784,900
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.05	1,349,000
13.5	6.88	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	3,712,600
3.25	1.22	Shang Properties Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.61	0.62	0.6	0.6	1,990,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	1,200,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.9	5,467,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32.5	33	32.5	32.5	113,300
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc.	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.1	924,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.4	1.48	1.4	1.48	6,082,000
1,740.00	1,085.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,695.00	1,720.00	1,695.00	1,700.00	23,250
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,030.00	3,065.00	3,025.00	3,035.00	42,880
8.1	4.7	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.4	9,059,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.205	0.205	5,060,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.1	9.4	9.1	9.4	153,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.8	9	8.7	8.8	1,149,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.043	0.043	0.04	0.04	105,700,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	237,000
0.32	0.044	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.18	0.195	0.18	0.185	16,840,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	301,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.05	0.055	0.05	0.055	204,100,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.85	3	2.7	2.9	3,257,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	50,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.2	12,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39.5	40	39.5	39.5	1,142,500
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	31,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod'ns Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.59	0.6	2,790,000
1.2	0.5	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.79	150,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.05	1,192,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
7.5	3	Easycall Comm. Phils. Inc.	4	4	4	4	5,000
6	1.96	Macroasia Corp.	4.95	5.2	4.95	4.95	476,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12	13	12	12.5	34,600
30	10.5	Paxys Inc	11.75	12.5	11.25	11.5	1,796,600
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	257,400,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	341,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	75,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14.5	15	14.5	15	3,723,100
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	2,000
10.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	7.1	7.5	7	7.1	153,000
3.1	0.57	Geograce Res. Philippines Inc.	2.42	2.44	2.24	2.26	98,726,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Cons. Mining Co. "A"	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.32	36,670,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Cons. Mining Co. "B"	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.35	6,500,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	107,300,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	25,700,000
30	1.98	NIHAO Minerals Res. Int'l Inc.	23.75	24.25	21.25	21.75	6,697,300
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	631,900,000
9.7	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.2	9.2	8.9	9.1	10,045,000
43.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	39	39	39	39	257,000
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.96	0.97	0.95	0.97	1,660,000
1.8	0.65	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	2,409,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,450,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	239,700,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	59,000,000
29	8.6	PNOC Exploration Corp. "B"	23	23	23	23	1,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10	9.9	9.9	120,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.027	407,700,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	929.09	UP	4.15	26,027,050	580,873,795.00
Industrial	4,605.40	UP	30.24	83,301,200	617,923,480.00
Holding Firms	2,067.49	UP	15.48	611,872,910	765,916,835.00
Property	1,701.99	UP	27.79	199,659,200	753,598,055.00
Service	1,837.29	UP	13.06	360,721,130	372,467,810.00
Mining & Oil	7,643.81	DOWN	14.04	1,930,529,400	1,041,791,710.00
All Shares Index	2,304.05	UP	11.25		
PSEi	3,697.17	UP	29.30		
		GRAND TOTALS		3,212,110,890	4,132,571,685.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK PSE

Angara's concern for the elderly

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE PRESS REPORTED THE OTHER DAY that Sen. Edgardo Angara wants local governments units (LGU) to provide hospital and medical care to the elderly. This is on top of what are already provided under the PhilHealth law.

I appreciate Senator Angara's concern. But some LGU's, like Makati and Naga, have already put up hospitals where senior citizens are provided the care Angara talks of.

The senior citizen in this country has a unique problem. The law originally authored by Angara defined the senior citizen as a person at least 60 years old and earning less than P60,000 a year. To get that precious 20-percent discount, the senior citizen has to have an ID card. As far as I know, this card is an invention found only in this country.

Angara's ID card system resulted in a lot of iniquities. For example, a retired public school teacher with a pension of more than P60,000 a year does not qualify for an ID card. But, a Forbes Park matron, who has no job because her husband is a big businessman, does. In fact, I know a small group of Forbes Park ladies who meet at a weekly lunch in a classy restaurant. When the bill arrives, the ladies flash their cards and get their usual discounts.

Soon enough, the ID card became a political tool. If you have connections at City Hall, you can get a card even if you enjoy a fabulous income. Of course, come election time, you know whom to campaign for.

The worst part about the ID card is that it robs the senior citizen of his self-respect. Cash-strapped, he is forced to go around town waving his ID card like a begging bowl.

The Expanded Senior Citizens Act did away with the ID card, partly as a result of the vigorous lobbying by the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) at the House committee hearings. A passport, a driver's license, or any similar document, became acceptable.

The domestic airlines, the five-star hotels, and the restaurant chains have accepted the new rule. But in spite of a favorable Supreme Court ruling, the senior citizen still has to do battle at the corner drugstore and the mom-and-pop restaurants. These establishments claim that the Bureau of Internal Revenue requires that the discounts must be supported by the details of the ID cards. Maybe, Senator Angara can sort this matter out with the BIR.

What is the discount for? During the long years of gainful employment, a citizen toils to raise a family, takes part in nation-building, and pays taxes. Then he retires (compulsorily, mind you). In most cases, the retiree, now dubbed a senior citizen, has to make do with a pension that is not even enough to cover the cost of his maintenance medicines.

Therefore, the discount should be considered a senior citizen's reward for a job well done. He should not be forced to beg for something he had paid for during his productive years. Besides, what happened to the traditional Filipino esteem for his elders?

May I suggest that Senator Angara should use the powers of his office to give back to the senior citizen his well-earned self-respect.

Gov't defers sale of Sucat plant

From page B1

transport and residential sectors to tap the natural gas from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project in Palawan.

PSALM has not lined up for bidding any other retired National Power Corp. generation asset, except for the Manila Thermal Power Plant, which will be sold on Dec. 19.

Tampinco said in an earlier interview that the decommissioned plant has attracted 12 potential bidders, two of which were real estate developers.

He said the inclusion in the sale of the land on which the asset stood made it more attractive to potential investors.

The two-hectare land was located in a prime area, near SM Manila and other commercial centers. Its size was also ideal for industrial purposes.

HMR AUCTION SERVICES, INC.

U.S. EMBASSY ON-SITE AUCTION
AUCTION DATES: OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2007 (THURSDAY & FRIDAY) FROM 10:30AM - 4:00PM
VIEWING WILL BE ON THE MORNING OF AUCTION SALE FROM 9:00AM - 10:30AM
AT: U.S. EMBASSY (F.B. HARRISON GATE), SEAFRONT COMPOUND, ROXAS BLVD., PASAY CITY

BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION & HARDWARE MATERIALS
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REFUNDABLE BID DEPOSIT OF P30,000 DUE UPON REGISTRATION
(SANDO, SHORTS, SLIPPERS, CAMERAS & CELLPHONES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED)

SUMULONG WAREHOUSE AUCTION
AUCTION DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2007 (TUESDAY) @ 10:30AM
VIEWING DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2007 (MONDAY) FROM 9:00AM - 5:00PM
AT: KM. 40 SUMULONG HI-WAY, BRGY. MAMBUGAN, ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

IMPORTED FURNITURE, ELECTRONICS & POWER TOOLS
• IMPORTED FURNITURE (NARRA DINING TABLE, SOFA SETS, NARRA BED FRAME W/ MATTRESSES, CABINETS & DRAWERS, PIANOS, RACKS & SHELVINGS • IMPORTED ELECTRONICS (TV SETS, COMPONENT SYSTEMS, DVD PLAYERS, CD PLAYERS W/ AM-FM RADIO, CLOCK RADIOS) • IMPORTED POWER TOOLS (DRILLS & GRINDERS, ASSORTED CUTTING MACHINES, BLOWERS & VACUUMS, PLANERS & SANDERS) • BRAND NEW IMPORTED BABY CRIBS & CHANGE TABLES (HARBOUR BRAND, FINE WOOD) • IMPORTED BABY CRIBS & STROLLERS (MOTHERS CHOICE, FOLDABLE) • ASSORTED SCRAP MATREIALS • AND A LOT MORE...
REFUNDABLE BID DEPOSIT OF P5,000 DUE UPON REGISTRATION

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WE PURCHASE / ACCEPT CONSIGNMENT OF CLOSED FACILITIES AND ASSETS

EMPIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
Synopsis of the Annual Statement
As of December 31, 2005

ADMITTED ASSETS	
Bonds	P 204,493,843.22
Stocks	8,072,964.40
Real Estate	6,288,563.00
Other Loans	483,987.00
Security Fund	17,902.00
Other Investments	15,162,500.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks	11,141,508.71
Premiums Receivable	6,695,870.97
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies	8,101,196.00
Premiums Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies	222,362.38
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses	5,330,933.00
Loss Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies	257,721.00
Salvage Recoverable	941,188.00
Accrued Investment Income	5,657,564.29
Electronic Data Processing Equipment	59,829.00
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	P 272,927,932.97
LIABILITIES	
Losses and Claims Payable	P 15,918,954.84
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	23,314,991.00
Catastrophe Loss Reserve	280,775.53
Premiums Due to Reinsurers	9,199,760.00
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers	3,133,087.00
Other Reinsurance Accounts Payable	154,583.00
Commissions Payable	15,575,757.00
Taxes Payable	6,608,847.08
Accounts Payable	1,120,739.00
Dividends Payable	2,500,000.00
Unearned Bond Discount	644,740.00
Other Liabilities	35,119,600.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 113,571,834.45
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Capital Stock Paid-up	P 50,000,000.00
Special Surplus Funds	
Fluctuation Reserve - Stocks	6,063,088.44
Fluctuation Reserve - Foreign Exchange	819,793.22
Retained Earnings	102,473,216.87
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P 159,356,098.53
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P 272,927,932.97

(This Synopsis, prepared from the 2005 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section [illegible] of the Insurance Code of [illegible] as amended.)

ROVER SYSTEMS
Keeping safe everything that matters.
RV-7716N / RV-7708N
16CH / 8CH
Network DVR
Seagate SV35 Series
VIBRANT, BRILLIANT AND CLEAR VIDEO...
FOR AS LOW AS P28,000 UNIT PRICE
P2,333.33/mo. For 12 mos. at 0% interest.
THE RV-7708N AND RV-7716N IS PACKED WITH 4, 8 AND 16 CAMERAS, 160 GB UP TO 750 GB HARD DISK DRIVE, AVR, POWER SUPPLY, CONNECTORS AND PATCH CABLE.
ROVER SYSTEMS DVR-VS SERIES
DVR-VALUE SOLUTION
AN INNOVATIVE WAY OF SETTING UP A COMPLETE CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM
FOR AS LOW AS P49,690 PACKAGE PRICE
P4,140.83/mo. For 12 mos. at 0% interest.
Rover Systems Showrooms:
• Gilmore IT Center (New Manila, Quezon City) 723-9415 • MC Home Depot (Ortigas Ave., Pasig City) 638-3859
• MC Home Depot (The Fort, Taguig) 815-4929 • Alabang Home Depot (Filinvest Ave., Westgate)
Protect your home and business. Call us: 723-7959
0% INTEREST FOR 12 MOS.

Canon
Delighting You Always

LV-X7 PROJECTOR
High-res XGA resolution (1024 x 768)
1500 lumens
1.6x Wide-Angle Zoom
Near-silent 25dB Quiet Mode
Up to 3000 hrs. lamp life
FREE PowerShot A560 w/ 1gig SD card worth P15,950
2-year Warranty!
ORIGINAL SRP: P59,950
PROMO PRICE: P54,950
FREE!

LV-7260 PROJECTOR
High-res XGA resolution (1024 x 768)
2000 lumens
1.6x Wide-Angle Zoom
Near-silent 29dB Quiet Mode
Up to 3000 hrs. lamp life
FREE PowerShot A570 IS w/ 1gig SD card worth P16,950
2-year Warranty!
ORIGINAL SRP: P65,000
PROMO PRICE: P59,950
FREE!

LENS APPEAL
BUY 1 TAKE 1
LCD PROJECTOR + CANON POWERSHOT
Extended until October 31, 2007!
as approved by DTI-NCR

XGA RESOLUTION (1024x768)
GENUINE CANON OPTICS
1.6x WIDE-ANGLE ZOOM

FOR MORE INQUIRIES, YOU MAY CONTACT:
Canon Marketing (Phils.) Head Office:
Corporate Hotline: 884-9041 to 43, 884-9016
Corporate E-mail: cii-admin_corp@cspl.canon.com.sg
Trunkline: 884-9000 Fax: 810-9797
The VALUE SYSTEMS PHILS., INC.
Tel: 716-0869 / 1468 / 2757 / 2879
Fax: 338-1818
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4404 Series of 2007

PUBLIC SEALED BIDDING

To be held in PNB Asset Management Sector
REGIONAL CENTER - CEBU
Cebu Branch - Cor. Jakosalem & M.C. Briones Sts., Cebu City.

Sealed offer and cashier's/ manager's check payment for deposit must be submitted on November 9, 2007, Friday at 11:00 A.M.

Property Location: # Lots 24 & 25/Blk 10, No. 207 Jose Avila cor. Don Mariano Cui Streets, Capitol Site, Cebu City

Description	TCT	Lot Area (sqm.)	Improvement (sqm.)	Minimum Bid Price
Residential Dormitory	T-177993	600	589	P 13,300,000.00

Submission Procedure:

The sealed offer must be labeled
"Public bidding - Lots 24 & 25/Blk 10, No. 207 Jose Avila cor. Don Mariano Cui Streets, Capitol Site, Cebu City Property".

FOR INQUIRY

PNB HEAD OFFICE – MANILA
AMS - SALES II
TEL NOs: (02) 833-2952 & 526-3131 loc. 4797
Account Officers : SM Julie Daval-Santos
JASA CJ Zapata

Way of Sealed Bids in CASH or INSTALLMENT and on "As-is Where-is" basis.

PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1. Bidders should use the Bank-prescribed "Purchase Proposal Form" accompanied by a Buyer's Information Sheet. If a bidder is a representative of a corporation, the representative must submit a Secretary's Certificate to represent the said corporation.
2. Sealed offer/s to buy must be accompanied by non-interest bearing deposit of at least 10% of the offered purchase price in the form of Cashier's/Manager's Check payable to Philippine National Bank.
3. As a general rule "no bid below the floor price shall be accepted".
4. PNB's decision is final and binding. No withdrawal of bids shall be allowed once the winning bid has been selected and approved by PNB. Any withdrawal of bid by winning bidder shall result to forfeiture by PNB of deposit.
5. In the event the winning bidder failed to comply with the specified payment terms, the 10% deposit shall be forfeited as penalty and the sale shall be automatically cancelled.
6. PNB reserves the right to reject any and all bids at its sole discretion, waive any defects or informality on the bids received and accepts the bid most advantageous to PNB but does not guarantee that any award shall be made.
7. PNB shall be responsible in the payment of Creditable Withholding Tax (CWT) up to the selling price only and any excess shall be for the account of the winning bidder. All other expenses such as documentary stamp tax, transfer tax, registration fees and other fees related to the transfer of the title in the name of the winning bidder shall be for the exclusive account of the winning bidder.
8. PNB does not assume any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for any expense that may be incurred in the bidding process.
9. PNB reserves the right to withdraw the foregoing property at any time before the deadline of submission of bids.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Tekturna - Rasilez wins Gold in Technology Innovation Award Program

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ANNOUNCED that Tekturna - Rasilez (aliskiren) is the overall winner of the prestigious Wall Street Journal Technology Innovations Award.

From more than 800 entries, Tekturna - Rasilez received the Gold Award from The Wall Street Journal's Technology Innovation Awards, which honors technological breakthroughs in such areas as medicine, software, the Internet, wireless and consumer electronics. These innovations can be in the form of new products, patents, inventions or services, and go beyond marginal improvements in existing products and services. An independent panel of judges reviewed the applications and selected category winners.

The award recognizes the significant amount of research and resources required to develop Tekturna - Rasilez, the first direct renin inhibitor, and that Tekturna - Rasilez is a therapeutic breakthrough that offers doctors and patients an entirely new option for controlling high blood pressure.

"The fact that we had a new approach was really in keeping with what the award is about," noted judge Richard Lang."

As a direct renin inhibitor, Tekturna - Rasilez is the first new class of high blood pressure medicine in more than a decade. It acts uniquely by directly inhibiting renin, an enzyme that triggers a process that can lead to high blood pressure. Tekturna - Rasilez has demonstrated significant blood pressure lowering when used alone1,2 or in combination with other blood pressure medicines 1,3,4,5.

On winning on the top prize, Dr. Ameet Nathwani, global head cardiovascular and metabolism, clinical development and medical affairs at Novartis said, "The Novartis team is extremely proud that The Wall Street Journal selected Tekturna - Rasilez for this award. Tekturna - Rasilez is the first major blood pressure innovation in more than 10 years. After the decades-long search for an effective direct renin inhibitor, Tekturna - Rasilez now provides new possibilities in the fight against high blood pressure, the world's number 1 modifiable risk factor."

Tekturna - Rasilez was approved in the US in March 2007. In August 2007, Novartis announced approval in the European Union under the brand name Rasilez. Tekturna - Rasilez was developed in collaboration with Speedel.

adidas Run for Love - GK Bayani Marathon

CALLING ALL COMPANIES AND organizations that are in search for a fun and rewarding activity that will not only foster sportsmanship but also camaraderie and charity- the adidas Run for Love GK Bayani Marathon is just the perfect option for you. This sports event will definitely capture every individual's hunger for sports and adventure but most importantly it is for the benefit of a good cause as all proceeds will go to the hundreds of Gawad Kalinga Foundation recipients.

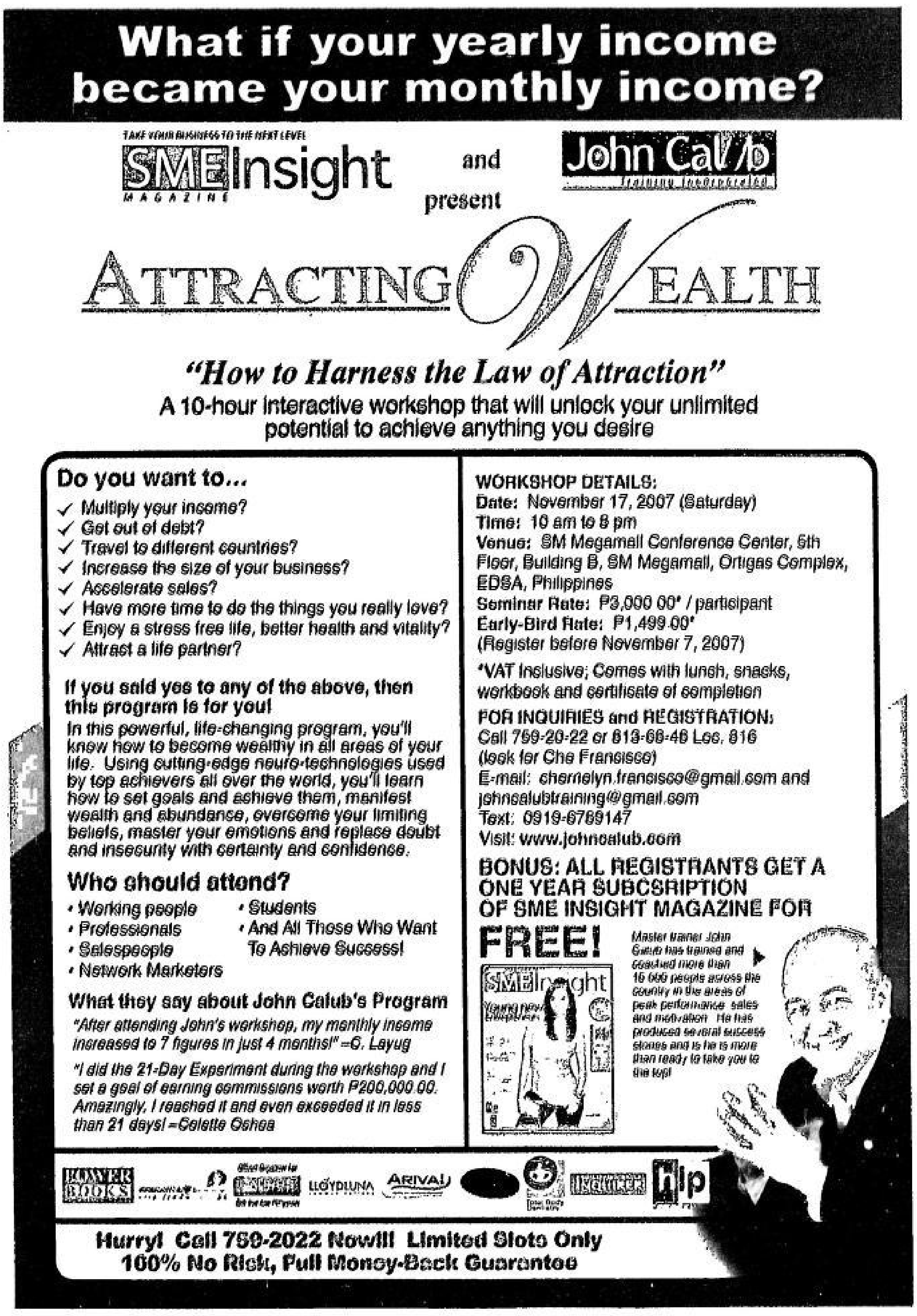
Early this year, leading sports brand adidas called on all running enthusiasts to gear up for their run and to go the distance - to experience the sheer pleasure of challenging themselves. Apart from the Test Run 28 promo, where individuals were matched with the right adidas running shoe, adidas has also launched the King of The Road (KOTR) marathon series to encourage people to keep running.

Now with the first ever adidas Run for Love GK Bayani Marathon, adidas once again invites all runners to hit the pavement but this time to exercise advocacy as well.

Commencing on Oct. 27 at the SM Mall of Asia, the adidas Run for Love marathon will surely be another huge success as participants will not only race to stay fit and healthy but are running to benefit those in need. Made for both 5 and 10k runners, all proceeds from the adidas Run for Love - GK Bayani Marathon will go to Gawad Kalinga foundation.

Those who've picked up the running pace with adidas confess that with all these fit fests and more, running has never been more accessible or exciting. The adidas Run for Love GK Bayani Marathon, adidas is perfect for all health buffs that believe in a good cause. So be sure to mark your calendars for the adidas Run for Love GK Bayani Marathon on Oct. 27 and be a part of the momentous event!

The adidas Run for Love marathon is also a great way for companies and organizations to promote team building and charitable acts at the same time. For all interested parties, you may contact Thelma Biscocho at 727-9987 or visit G/F Madrigal Bldg. Annapolis St. Greenhills San Juan.



What if your yearly income became your monthly income?

TAKE YOUR BUSINESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL SME Insight MAGAZINE and John Calub Training Incorporated present

ATTRACTING WEALTH

"How to Harness the Law of Attraction"

A 10-hour interactive workshop that will unlock your unlimited potential to achieve anything you desire

Do you want to...
- ✓ Multiply your income?
- ✓ Get out of debt?
- ✓ Travel to different countries?
- ✓ Increase the size of your business?
- ✓ Accelerate sales?
- ✓ Have more time to do the things you really love?
- ✓ Enjoy a stress free life, better health and vitality?
- ✓ Attract a life partner?

If you said yes to any of the above, then this program is for you!

In this powerful, life-changing program, you'll know how to become wealthy in all areas of your life. Using cutting-edge neuro-technologies used by top achievers all over the world, you'll learn how to set goals and achieve them, manifest wealth and abundance, overcome your limiting beliefs, master your emotions and replace doubt and insecurity with certainty and confidence.

Who should attend?
- Working people
- Professionals
- Salespeople
- Network Marketers
- Students
- And All Those Who Want To Achieve Success!

What they say about John Calub's Program

"After attending John's workshop, my monthly income increased to 7 figures in just 4 months!" =C. Layug

"I did the 21-Day Experiment during the workshop and I set a goal of earning commissions worth P200,000.00. Amazingly, I reached it and even exceeded it in less than 21 days! =Colette Oshea

WORKSHOP DETAILS:
Date: November 17, 2007 (Saturday)
Time: 10 am to 8 pm
Venue: SM Megamall Conference Center, 5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall, Ortigas Complex, EDSA, Philippines
Seminar Rate: P3,000.00* / participant
Early-Bird Rate: P1,499.00*
(Register before November 7, 2007)
*VAT Inclusive; Comes with lunch, snacks, workbook and certificate of completion

FOR INQUIRIES and REGISTRATION:
Call 759-20-22 or 813-66-46 Loc. 816
(look for Che Francisco)
E-mail: chernelyn.francisco@gmail.com and johncalubtraining@gmail.com
Text: 0919-6769147
Visit: www.johncalub.com

BONUS: ALL REGISTRANTS GET A ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION OF SME INSIGHT MAGAZINE FOR FREE!

Master trainer John Calub has trained and coached more than 15 000 people across the country in the areas of peak performance sales and motivation. He has produced several success stories and is he is more than ready to take you to the top!

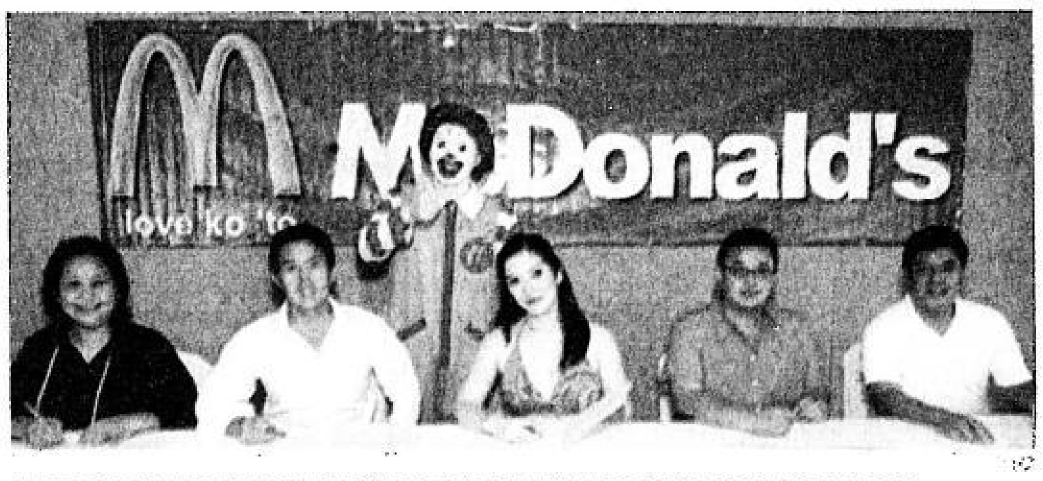
Hurry! Call 759-2022 Now!!! Limited Slots Only
100% No Risk, Full Money-Back Guarantee

THE BEYONCE EXPERIENCE LIVE IN TAGUIG 2007

The people behind 'The Beyonce Experience Live in Taguig 2007' get together at the Mandarin Oriental in Makati City to announce the staging of the concert on Nov. 7. In photo are: Rudy Tee of Sony BMG, Kevin Belmonte of the Philippine Star and People Asia magazine, Butch Reyes of Metrobank Card Corp, MTV VJ Maggie Wilson, All Youth Channels Inc chair/CEO Francis Lumen, MTV VJ Kat Alano, Globe Telecom president/CEO Gerry Ablaza, Tess Palma of Ayala Malls, Mandarin Oriental general manager Helmut Gaisberger, Fe Varilla of Samsung, Karl Vargas of Starcom and Leo Po of Argentina Corned Beef Lite.

WENDY'S GREENCARD LAUNCH

Wendy's recently launched Wendy's Greencard which aims to promote Healthy Lifestyle. Wendy's awarded selected Filipino personalities with a Wendy's Greencard, which allows them to partake of a choice of healthy menu at any Wendy's everyday, free of charge. Menu choices include crisp, freshly prepared fresh Salad Sensations, fiber and vitamin rich Chili con Carne, Hot-off-the-grill 100 percent pure beef Hamburgers, hearty and natural Baked Potatoes and Sugar-free Natural and Home Brewed iced Teas. This program is in conjunction with the Department of Health's Eat healthy campaign which Wendy's committed to support since 2005. Wendy's is the first fastfood chain that signified its support to the decade-long Healthy Lifestyle Campaign of the DOH. As shown Sandy Prieto-Romualdez is the most recent of Wendy's Greencard. Other holders includes: Akiko Thompson, Hans Montenegro, Monsour del Rosario, Precious Lara Quigaman, Tessa Prieto, Gretchen Barreto and a host of other business and social personalities.



KRIS AQUINO INKS ENDORSEMENT DEAL WITH MCDONALD'S

Kris has decided: It's a deal with McDonald's! Kris Aquino inks an endorsement deal with McDonald's Philippines. Also present during the contract signing were McDonald's VP for marketing Margot Torres, McDonald's president and CEO Kenneth Yang, Kris' manager Dondon Monteverde and DDB's chief operating officer Roy Santiago.

TOYOTA DONATES HILUX FOR REFORESTATION PROJECT

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp (TMP) president Hiroshi Ito (center) turns over to Conservation International-Philippines country executive director Romeo Trono (right) the symbolic key to a brand new Toyota Hilux Pick-Up for the Peñablanca Reforestation Project that was kicked-off last Sept. 13. The reforestation project, a joint undertaking of Toyota Motor Corp (TMC) of Japan, non-profit organization Conservation International, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the local government of Peñablanca, Cagayan, aims to restore approximately 2,500 hectares in the Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape through a US3 million donation for reforestation and agroforestry. Looking on is TMP executive vice president Dr. David Go.

VS&F ELEVATED TO HALL OF FAME

After consistently winning Top Booker and Top Grosser awards in Wedding Expo Philippines from the 6th edition in March 2005 until the 10th edition in March this year, VS&F Classic Food International is elevated to the Wedding Expo Philippines Hall of Fame. In simple awards ceremonies during the WedExpo Philippines recently, Buddy Abesamis (right), VS&F owner - president, accepted the Hall of Fame trophy on top of his victory cups as the exhibitor with the most bookings (Top Booker) and highest amount of onsite bookings (Top Grosser) in Wedding Expo Philippines last March. Abesamis expressed his thanks and support to Themes & Motifs' Sharon Fabian and its events for the highly coveted awards. Wedding Expo Philippines is the biggest and longest-running wedding trade show in the country.

Affordable water refilling station

THE ELECTROMEX UHP-500 WATER refilling station is a stand alone, plug-and-play, 3000-gallon-a-day transportable high-purity mineral water system ideal for private or business purposes. It uses a high-capacity ozone generator system that kills bacteria 300 times better than chlorine. It doesn't require salts and does not generate wasteful backwash that throws away 70 percent of water-as what happens with the traditional reverse osmosis process.

With the UHP-500, you get savings and profitability as everything is processed 100 percent-that's zero wastewater for a manufacturing cost of as low as 30 centavos per gallon.

The unit is a compact 4ft x 3ft x 6ft that would fit in a garage or kitchen. The filters are standard and can be purchased cheap at any SM, Handyman and DIY stores since the UHP-500 doesn't require any franchise fees or any other come on.

At just P150,000, you get a complete system similar to what the largest mineral water manufacturers such as Viva, Summit and even the world-famous Evian uses.

You can even use the UHP-500 for factories, condos, buildings, schools, hospitals and barangay halls and subdivisions.

Electromex also builds ozone water treatment systems for algae removal of swimming pools, overhead water tanks and aircon cooling towers for ice plants and factories. That's goodbye to chlorine.

Call 531-6782, 535-9069 or log on to www.electromexinc.com for details.

Microsoft bows to EU measures

BRUSSELS—MICROSOFT Corp. on Monday ended three years of resistance, finally agreeing to comply with a landmark 2004 antitrust decision by the European Commission.

The defeated software giant announced it would not appeal against a decisive European Union court ruling two months ago that backed the bloc's executive Commission.

"The repercussions of these changes will start now and will continue for years to come," Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes told a news conference, adding that Microsoft's agreement would have "profound effects" on the software industry.

"It is a victory for the consumer," she said.

Microsoft, which was fined nearly half a billion euros in 2004 and a further 280.5 million euros ($400.6 million) in 2006 for noncompliance, faced the prospect of steep new fines if it did not accommodate the Commission.

"As from today, Microsoft has established compliance, no doubt about that," Kroes said. "There is no reason to impose further penalties on Microsoft as of this day."

But Microsoft still faces fines for lack of compliance between 2006 and now, potentially reaching hundreds of millions of euros.

Among other reversals, Microsoft will make available to so-called "open source" software developers information they need to make their programs work smoothly with Microsoft's Windows operating system for personal computers.

Microsoft also slashed high royalties that commercial firms would pay for that interoperability information.

Microsoft suffered a major legal defeat in September when the EU's second highest court backed the Commission on all major points, ruling the world's largest software maker abused its dominant market position to crush rivals.

Microsoft's Windows runs on 95 percent of the world's personal computers. The Court of First Instance said Microsoft must give rival makers of server software information they need to connect smoothly to Windows desktop software.

Office desktop PCs use work group server software made by Microsoft and others to sign on to, print and access files.

Microsoft drastically altered its royalty program on the interconnection information as part of its agreement.

The nonprofit European Committee of Interoperable Systems expressed satisfaction with the commission's pursuit of Microsoft. *Reuters*

Oil falls below $86 on US growth concerns

SINGAPORE—WORLD OIL prices yesterday slipped in Asia on worries about slowing economic growth in the United States, dealers said.

In afternoon trade, New York's main oil futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in December, was three cents lower at $85.99 per barrel.

The November contract on Monday closed in New York at $87.56, after falling $1.04 during the day. The contract on Friday struck a record $90.07.

Dariusz Kowalczyk, senior investment strategist with CFC Seymour in Hong Kong, said "there is a huge bias to close lower today" with the transition from the November contract to the cheaper December contract.

More distant crude contracts are usually priced lower.

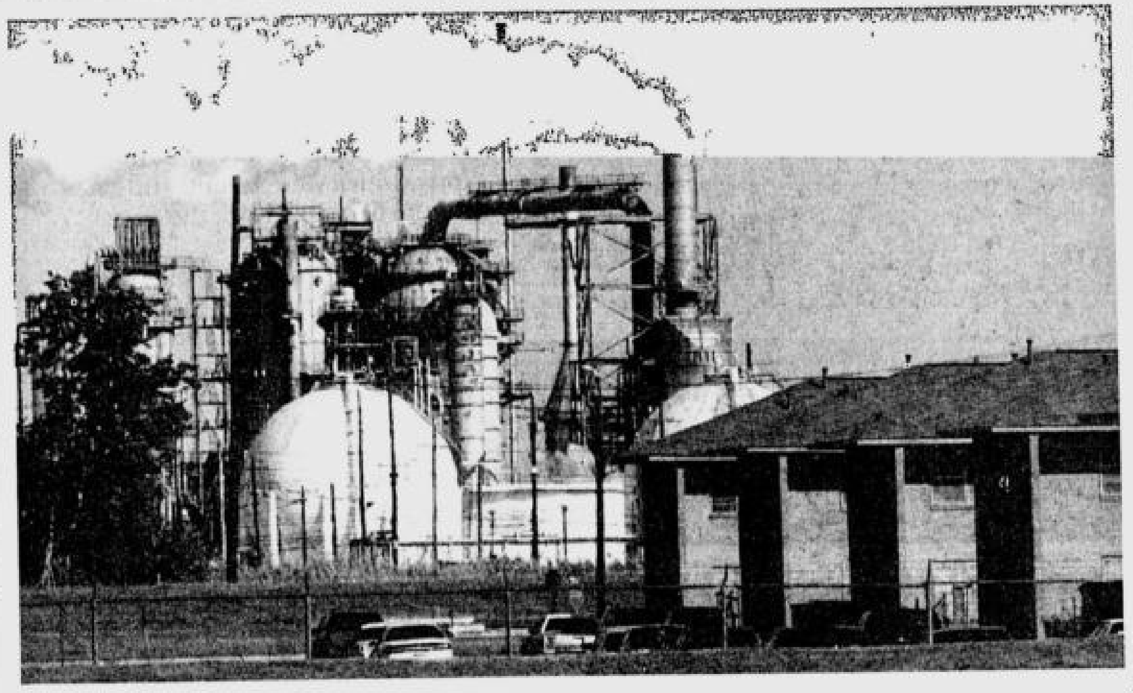
Brent North Sea crude for December delivery was 11 cents lower at $83.16 per barrel.

In London trade on Monday the contract dipped 52 cents to settle at $83.27 per barrel, off more than a dollar from its record peak of $84.88 on Thursday.

Kowalczyk said worries over slower economic growth were also a factor, particularly after a weekend warning from finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven industrialized countries. They said recent financial market turbulence, high oil prices and weakness in the US housing sector will likely moderate economic growth.

Additional downward momentum on prices came after Kurdish rebels offered Turkey a ceasefire on Monday.

Kuwait's interim Oil Minister Mohammad al-Olaim said on Monday that he expected lower oil prices as a result of an output boost by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. *AFP*



POLLUTED REGION
The Carver Terrace housing project is shown next to an oil refinery in west Port Arthur, Texas. The city of Port Arthur sits squarely on a two-state corridor, routinely ranked as one of the most polluted regions in the United States.
AP

China hits back at IMF over yuan

BEIJING—CHINA HAS HIT back at the International Monetary Fund after the organization pressed Beijing to free up the exchange rate for the yuan, state media said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank in Washington last weekend, Vice Finance Minister Li Yong said the fund should not put too much emphasis on the exact exchange rates of the currencies of member nations.

"The fund's exchange rate surveillance should focus on whether a member country's exchange-rate regime is consistent with its medium-term macroeconomic policies," Li said, according to the Xinhua news agency.

China de-linked the yuan from the US dollar in 2005 and has since allowed it to rise nearly 10 percent against the greenback.

But critics of the nation's trade surplus argue it is not enough.

The IMF said in a recent report that loosening the controls on the exchange rate would make it easier for the Chinese government to carry out economic policies at home.

"A more flexible exchange rate would give monetary policy more scope to focus on domestic objectives, particularly the need to slow lending and investment growth," it said.

Li also reiterated Chinese concerns about new IMF rules on exchange rate policies, known as the Decision on Bilateral Surveillance.

According to one of the guiding principles in the new rules, "a member shall avoid manipulating exchange rates ... to gain an unfair competitive advantage over other members."

Li said the rules had been adopted "in the absence of consensus among its members," Xinhua reported.

The IMF should adhere to its consensus-based approach in adopting major resolutions, the minister said. *AFP*

Asian stocks rally after Wall Street rise

Despite gains, investors still seen to be cautious

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCKS rebounded on Tuesday after strong earnings from technology heavyweight Apple helped power some tech shares higher, while the yen's rally took a breather as risk appetite improved.

The upbeat mood was set to spread to Europe, where bookmakers were expecting opening gains of about one percent for stock indexes in Britain, Germany and France

Strengthening share markets slightly dented appetite for safe-haven government bonds, driving the benchmark 10-year Japanese yield off a one-month low and keeping US Treasuries under pressure.

At 0615 GMT, MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks, excluding Japan, had risen 2.3 percent, climbing after two consecutive sessions of falls.

Tokyo's Nikkei average again under-performed. It ended less than 0.1 percent higher.

On Monday, the MSCI index dropped 3.1 percent, posting its biggest one-day decline in just over two months.

"People are buying on dips, which accounts for the rise in bank shares, while all the (Japanese) exporters are gaining because the yen has weakened," said Terushi Hirotama, head of trading at Ichiyoshi Securities.

But despite the gains, lingering worries about the full impact of the US housing slump on the world's biggest economy and credit market problems were still keeping investors cautious, market players said.

Investors bought firms such as electronics parts maker Hon Hai Precisions Industry, which makes iPods for Apple, and contract laptop PC maker Quanta Computer, which supplies Apple, sending their shares up 3 percent and 4.3 percent respectively.

Banks, hammered by credit worries, were also better bid following the rebound in their US peers. Japan's Mitsubishi UFJ, HSBC and Australia's Macquarie Bank all rose.

Other markets in the region were all firmer, but China's mainland stocks eased on worries that a huge share sale and central bank policy will drain liquidity.

Improving appetite for riskier assets weighed on the low-yielding yen—the currency of choice when funding purchases of higher yielding and riskier assets in the popular carry trades.

The dollar bounced up to 114.74 yen from an intraday low near 113.20 yen on Monday, while the euro climbed above 163 yen from the previous session's low of about 160.50 yen.

"Since US shares rose, that led to some short-covering in cross/yen," said a dealer at a major Japanese trading house.

In Hong Kong, the local currency hit its upper limit of 7.75 to the dollar for the first time since the trading band was set in May 2005 amid strong flows into the city's rallying stock market and speculation that the dollar peg might be abandoned.

Gold climbed above $757 an ounce, and was within sight of a 28-year peak of $770 an ounce touched on Friday, while US light crude extended its decline below $86 a barrel. *Reuters*

Apple income jumps 67% to $904M

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA—APPLE INC.'S fiscal fourth-quarter profits jumped 67 percent to cap a year that saw unprecedented momentum in its Macintosh computer business, continued demand for iPods and the successful launch of the iPhone.

For the three months that ended Sept. 30, Apple said yesterday it earned $904 million (euro638.15 million), or $1.01 a share, compared with $542 million, or 62 cents a share, in the year-ago quarter.

Apple easily beat the expectations of analysts polled by Thomson Financial, who predicted earnings per share of 86 cents on sales of $6.07 billion (euro4.28 billion).

Revenue totaled $6.22 billion (euro4.39 billion), compared with $4.84 billion in the same quarter last year.

Apple's stock price, which has more than doubled since January, rose $3.94, or 2.3 percent, to close at $174.36. After the earnings report, shares climbed about $12, almost 7 percent, in extended trading.

Apple said it shipped a record 2.16 million Macs in the quarter, an increase of 34 percent, while it sold 10.2 million iPods, up 17 percent. The debut of a slate of new iPods in September helped accelerate sales and is expected to boost holiday revenues, Apple officials said.

The company has sold more than 120 million iPods since the product's 2001 debut.

For the full fiscal year, Apple earned a record $3.5 billion (euro2.47 billion), up more than 75 percent from last year when it earned $1.99 billion. Yearly sales reached over $24 billion (euro16.94 billion), a 24-percent jump from fiscal 2006.

"We had a fantastic quarter and year," said Peter Oppenheimer, Apple's chief financial officer.

Apple's fortunes have skyrocketed in recent years as its iPods became a cultural phenomenon. *AP*

GM edges ahead of Toyota in global vehicle sales

TOKYO—DETROIT GIANT General Motors has edged ahead of Japanese rival Toyota Motor Corp. in the race to finish the year as the world's top-selling automaker, figures showed Monday.

Toyota overtook GM in the first quarter of 2007 in terms of global sales, and remained in pole position for the first half of the year as a whole.

But the Japanese automaker on Monday said that it had sold 7.05 million vehicles in the nine months to September. The sales figure included that of two key affiliates.

Toyota slipped behind GM which sold 7.06 million vehicles in the same period.

A pioneer of eco-friendly hybrids, Toyota is enjoying brisk demand overseas, particularly in the United States, where sky-high prices at the pump have boosted demand for its fuel-efficient vehicles.

But, like its rivals, it is struggling in its domestic market where auto sales have been stagnating amid sluggish consumer spending and wages, while GM is also now enjoying rising sales overseas.

Toyota now expects to sell about 1.65 million vehicles in Japan in 2007, down from a previous target of 1.72 million, president Katsuaki Watanabe said earlier this month.

Even if GM retains its 76-year reign as the world's best-selling automaker in 2007, Toyota is expected to come out on top in terms of production as it aims to manufacture 9.42 million vehicles against GM's 9.257 million.

While Toyota is expanding its overseas production facilities, GM has been laying off workers and shuttering factories to try to reverse losses that hit two billion dollars last year. *AFP*

European court says VW law illegal

LUXEMBOURG—A GERMAN law that has shielded Volkswagen from takeover is illegal, the European Union's highest court said on Tuesday, in a decision expected to affect the future ownership of the group.

The ruling sparked a brief rally in the shares of the German automaker, in which sports car manufacturer Porsche has a 31-percent stake. They later turned lower, trading down 0.9 percent at 178.97 euros at 0805 GMT.

Shares in Porsche jumped more than 6 percent.

"By maintaining in force the provisions of the VW law concerning the capping of voting rights at 20 percent and the fixing of the blocking minority at 20 percent ... the Federal Republic of Germany has failed to fulfill its obligations," the court said in a statement.

The ruling will help the European Commission in its crackdown on so-called golden shares, or strategic stakes held by governments in listed companies.

The EU's executive commission had challenged the law in the court, saying its cap on voting rights and limits on board seats hindered the free flow of capital in the EU.

The ruling was eagerly anticipated on two levels—its implications for future ownership of VW, Europe's biggest carmaker, and the huge boost a decision against the law would give the Commission's crackdown on golden shares.

The EU executive is using the court to stop member states using strategic stakes in companies to thwart takeovers.

Ending the 1960 law paves the way for Germany's Porsche to cement its control over VW by boosting its 31-percent stake to a majority.

Under the VW Law, Porsche's voting rights have been capped at 20 percent—the maximum allowed for any single shareholder.

Porsche welcomed the ruling and said it accepted Lower Saxony representation on the VW supervisory board. *Reuters*

IMF's Rato warns of 'abrupt fall' in US dollar

WASHINGTON—THE HEAD OF THE International Monetary Fund, Rodrigo Rato, warned yesterday of a potential "abrupt fall" in the US dollar that could roil the global economy.

"There are risks that an abrupt fall in the dollar could either be triggered by, or itself trigger, a loss of confidence in dollar assets," Rato said at the close of annual meetings here of the IMF and the World Bank.

The outgoing IMF managing director spoke here as the European single currency hit a new high of 1.4347 to the US dollar and global equity markets plunged amid renewed fears a US credit crunch could pitch the world's biggest economy into recession.

"The uncertainty ... comes from downside risks that are much higher than they were six months ago. The turbulence in the credit markets is a warning that we cannot take the benign (global) economic environment of recent years for granted," Rato said on the final day of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

A crisis in the risky US subprime mortgage sector, where loans are given to homebuyers with poor credit histories, erupted this year as borrowers defaulted on mortgages amid rising interest rates and a sharp slump in US housing prices.

The credit woes spilled into global financial markets and roiled stock markets worldwide in August. Although markets have recovered somewhat, the uncertainties of the extent of the problems are plaguing investors.

Rato warned that a global slowdown would exacerbate other existing risks, noting emerging economies' reliance on private capital inflows which are expected to reach a record $620 billion this year, after a 2006 total of $573 billion, according to the Institute of International Finance.

"All of these risks make action on already agreed policies more urgent," said the former Spanish finance minister, who is stepping down nearly two years before the end of his five-year mandate.

His successor, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a former Socialist finance minister of France, takes office on Nov. 1. *AFP*

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BSP plans to ease controls on overseas investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS may soon ease restrictions on the overseas investments of professionally managed collective funds, such as unit investment trust funds (UITFs), mutual funds and pension funds.

BSP Officer in Charge Nestor Espenilla Jr. said this would form part of the central bank's next wave of foreign exchange liberalization efforts, which were recently resumed for the first time since the currency turmoil of 1997.

"But we'll have to really take a look at it, because the environment keeps on changing," Espenilla said. "These are some of the measures that are being discussed."

The BSP started to ease restrictions on capital outflows in April this year as part of measures to address the strong influx of foreign money due to remittances of overseas Filipino workers and foreign investors' placements in the local stock, bond and money markets.

Next wave of key reforms

UITFs and mutual funds are collective investments managed by professionals and invested in a number of financial instruments, including stocks and bonds.

The money comes from people who have neither the time nor expertise to manage their own funds.

Mutual funds are incorporated entities governed by the Securities and Exchange Commission while UITFs are products handled by banks, which are governed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Earlier, there were proposals for the BSP to allow UITFs to invest abroad for portfolio diversification.

Espenilla said the BSP was looking at liberalization measures not only for UITFs but for all pooled funds in general.

"We'll give them equal treatment because of equal economic purpose," he said.

Earlier this year, the BSP doubled the maximum amount that local companies can invest abroad using foreign exchange sourced from the banking system to $12 million from $6 million.

Espenilla said the BSP would map out a separate framework for collective investments.

"It's more a question of how you will apply the $12 million (maximum investment) rule to funds because there are different funds. A bank can have multiple funds, will the limit apply for each fund (UITF) or for just one bank?" he said.

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* Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 2607, Series of 2007.

Gov't noncash revenue hit ₱23.8B as of Sept.

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S noncash revenue collection hit P23.8 billion in the first nine months of the year, more than double the P11.7 billion recorded in the same period last year.

In September alone, noncash revenue collection reached P3.7 billion, P3 billion higher than the P700 million recorded in the same month a year ago.

Noncash revenues are mainly in the form of tax expenditure funds (TEFs).

Government-owned and -controlled corporations, mainly those that are losing, dip into this fund to pay for their taxes or import duties.

The BIR and BOC record the payments using the TEF as part of their collection, while the GOCCs reflect the fund use as an expense.

Asked on the reason behind the increase in the TEF, a finance official said some government entities have substantially increased their purchase of imported capital equipment, therefore increasing their liabilities in the form of import duties.

One of the heaviest users of TEF is the National Food Authority, which imports rice.

The increase in noncash collections did not go unnoticed, however.

Sen. Francis Escudero earlier said the inclusion of noncash collections by the BIR and the BOC in the computation of their total revenues creates a false impression of high revenue collection.

The senator added that with noncash collections, the BIR and the BOC seem to be doing a better job in terms of generating needed revenues for the government, and that the government seems to be spending more for the benefit of the public.

"What's obtaining here is clearly a TEF-aided collection. Customs and BIR are getting a little help from their friends in the government. Without that assistance, the revenue picture would have been bleaker," Escudero said in a recent statement.

"TEF can in no way be defined as productive expenditure, it is not social services, it produces no service and buys no goods. It is also not the kind of revenue we want to constitute our tax effort on," the senator added.

Commenting that TEF bloats fiscal numbers, Escudero said it should no longer be booked as either revenue by the BIR and the BOC or expenditure by the government agency using it as payment for taxes and duties.

The BIR is tasked to collect P765 billion this year, while the BOC is assigned a revenue collection target of P228.2 billion. These goals are consistent with the national government's aim of reducing its budget deficit this year to P63 billion from last year's P64.8 billion.

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SPORTAGE

The reinforcements from Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. Philippines are expected to face off with the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord

Korean crown jewels

By Tessa R. Salazar

AS JAPANESE MANUFACturers are busy hosting local motoring journalists from the Philippines this week for the 2007 edition of the Tokyo Motor Show, rival Korean carmakers have been patient and busy reinforcing their product lineups in the local market, slowly eating away at the huge market share the Land of the Rising Sun has traditionally enjoyed in the Pearl of the Orient Seas.

The reinforcements from Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. Philippines are expected to face off with the Toyota Camry and Honda Accord. The Azera (P1.758 million), Sonata 2.4L (P1.238 million) and Sonata 3.3L (P1.318 million) were launched simultaneously just last week. Azera and Sonata are CBUs (completely built up units) from Korea.

People mover

In the other Korean frontline, Kia has revealed what it touts as its version of the Chevy Town and Country with its people-mover 2.9-liter Carnival. Columbian Auto Cars, Kia's exclusive distributor in the Philippines, now offers its lifestyle-centered 8-seater family vehicle with a common rail direct injection diesel engine versions.

The Carnival, contrary to its gaudy name, exudes a subdued style, but it does capitalize on its spacious interior (in reference, perhaps, to the all-in Big Top carnivals), easy-rear passenger access (rear seats easily foldable) and riding comfort.

The Carnival CRDi—just like the Sportage CRDi—already responds and purrs like a gasoline-powered vehicle. It also offers sequential mode for manual gear selection. The drive height is ideal for Asian physiques. The steering is light (good for lady drivers), while the brakes are powerful. Still, one could sense a wide-bodied heaviness in this hauler. But we're not driving a sportscar, so it's understandable.

The Carnival goes for P1.215 million (LX manual); P1.290 million (LX automatic); P1.450 million (EX automatic, all short wheel base); P1.570 million (EX automatic, long wheel base).

CARNIVAL

2-liter SUV

Speaking of the Sportage, this two-liter SUV offers full-time four-wheel drive CRDi (note: it's not all-time, but full-time 4WD). The 4WD disengages at high speed and engages during wheel slip (of course, there's also the 4WD lock button). There's just that teeny bit of delay from a standing start, but once it starts moving, the Sportage blows by like a breeze.

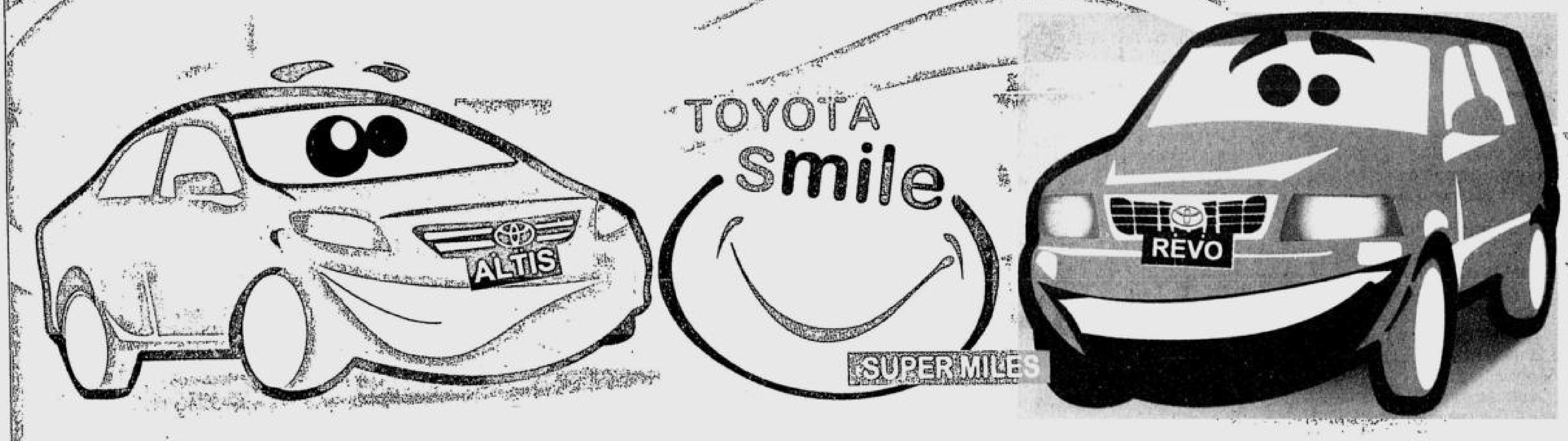
The traction control makes the Sportage less likely to skid or slip. For the more confident drivers, there's the TCS, or traction control switch that could turn the TC mode off.

Pop open the hood and one can see the engine is fully covered for protection (maybe not just from the elements, but from potential "tinkerers" as well).

Incidentally, the Sportage engine bears an uncannily similar look with the Hyundai Tucson engine. A mechanic may even mistake one for the other.

The handling, ride and road grip are impressive. It also feels light. The external noise insulation for a diesel-powered SUV is good. Basically, the only irritating noise you'll hear is the jingling of the car keys in the ignition.

The Sportage price tags are P969,000 (gas 4x2) and P1.120 million (CRDi 4x4).



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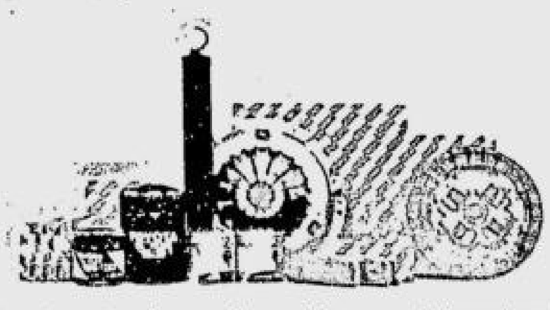

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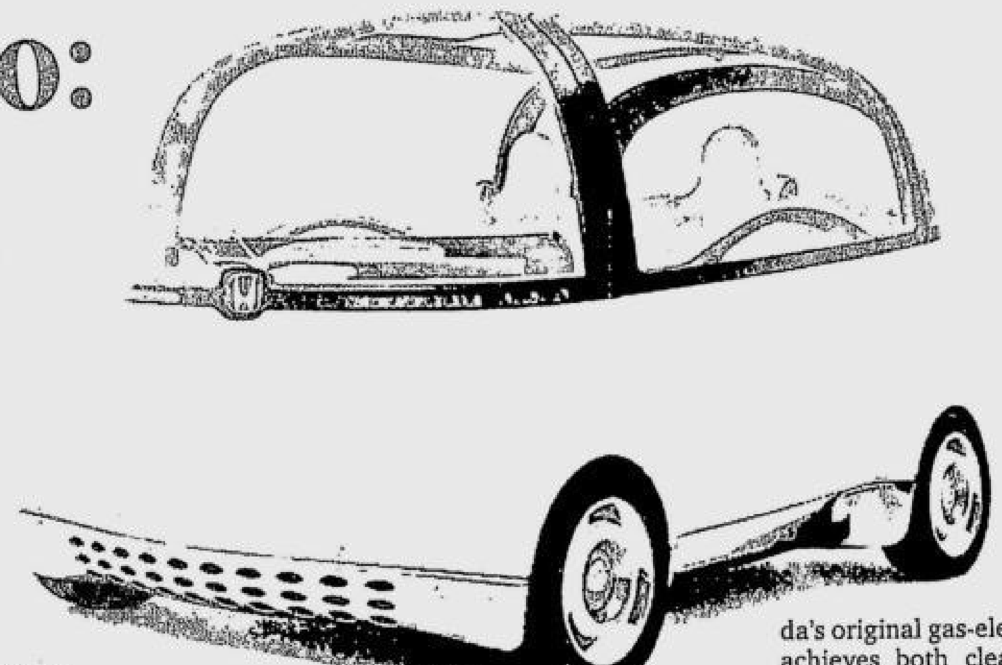
TOYOTA moving forward

The movers of Tokyo: A sneak peek



PUYO'S body has been made luminescent to guide users into the proper operating positions and notify them of the vehicle's condition. 'Puyo' is a Japanese onomatopoeia that expresses the sensation of touching the vehicle's soft body. It is meant to convey a warm, friendly impression.

By Tessa R. Salazar

TOKYO—IT'S OGLING TIME AGAIN.

For 17 days, Makuhari Messe in Chiba, Japan will be home to motoring journalists and car enthusiasts from all over this third planet from the Sun for the 40th Tokyo Motor Show.

Among the thousands will be INQUIRER Motoring, which will also get a closer look at the leading auto research campaign of Honda in Tochigi, where the innovative manufacturer keeps a full-scale wind tunnel, safety crash-test facility and the Tochigi proving ground. There would also be a meeting of motoring journalists at the Twin Ring Motegi.

Honda's battle cry

Aside from Honda's always breathtaking concept cars, spectators are eagerly awaiting the first look at the next-generation Honda Accord, and even an Accord diesel. Honda will present a total of 18 vehicles representing 11 different models, comprising vehicles already in the market, those soon to be introduced and concept models.

Honda's battle cry for this motor show is "For the endless joy of mobility on our earth", the focus of which are technologies that address environmental issues such as a reduction in carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions.

2 concept models

To make its world premiere at the Tokyo Motor Show are Honda's two concept models: The CR-Z, a next-generation lightweight sports car equipped with Honda's original gas-electric hybrid system that achieves both clean performance and a high level of torque; and the Puyo, a fuel cell vehicle, the design of which was based on an out-of-box thinking to provide fun for both the vehicle owner and for, well, oglers.

The diesel—i-DTEC next-generation engine will also be on display. Its existence was first announced in September at the Frankfurt Motor Show. This engine promises superior performance in both emissions and power.

The all-new Fit (Jazz in the Philippines), which will go on sale in Japan late this month, will be on display. First introduced in 2001. Fit is known for its funky style, function and relative fuel economy—characteristics that have led it to reach the 2-million unit sale worldwide.

Honda's "Next Energy" display will reveal new energy developments, including technologies for producing bio-ethanol from rice straws and the environmentally responsible next-generation thin-film solar cells, which will soon go on sale nationwide in Japan. Honda's F1 and other racing machines will also be on display.

HONDA'S lightweight hybrid sports car, the 'CR-Z' ('Compact Renaissance Zero'). The design goal was to 'create an all-new sporty interior that fuses the liberating feel of airy spaciousness with an advanced interface that brings out the fun of the drive.' We'll find that out in the next few days.

Toyota FT-SX riding on Goodyear

WHILE THE COUNTRY'S FINEST VEHICLES got primary attention at the first Philippine International Motor Show (PIMS) held recently, perceptive motoring enthusiasts also noticed the "shoes" of the new vehicles, including the ones fitted on the Toyota FT-SX concept car.

Top automaker Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. showcased the crossover concept, sporting Goodyear P255/45R22 tires. An exploration of an entirely new genre of automobiles, the Toyota FT-SX combines the ride comfort, handling and fuel-efficiency of a sedan with the utility, spaciousness and visibility of a car-based SUV.

Innovation, performance

Reflecting the two companies' commitment to innovation and performance, the Goodyear concept tires were designed in cooperation with Toyota's Calty Design Center in California, for the vehicle's debut at the 2005 North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

For Goodyear, the challenge was to meet Toyota FT-SX's specifications while maintaining the standards that make Goodyear tires unique, especially in terms of safety and reliability. The result was a set of concept tires providing functional capabilities such as carrying the vehicle load, gripping ability and traction, as well as complementing the vehicle's imposing size and sleek exterior.

A little more robust

"As a crossover vehicle, the FT-SX required the tire tread to be a little more robust than a typical all-season design, but not as rugged as a light truck or SUV tread pattern," said Paul Maxwell, principal designer for Goodyear Design Studio A in Akron, Ohio.

"For Goodyear, the solution was a directional pattern for a high-performance look. In addition, the large tread blocks add to a more rugged design, while the beveled block edges in the circumferential grooves were built to help clear water and mud from the tread pattern as it rolls through its contact with the road," Maxwell added.

GOODYEAR'S met Toyota FT-SX's specifications while maintaining the standards that make Goodyear tires unique, specially in terms of safety and reliability.

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"Having a car is just among those things that I would like to provide my family as well as a success indicator for me," Hong Kong-based Sonny Reyes explained.

Just like everyone, Sonny's main worry was how to regularly meet monthly payments so he canvassed of an auto loan that would satisfy his needs. "I just found myself lucky when I discovered PSBank's Auto Loan product. The application process was very simple," Sonny said.

Good service

Sonny learned about the PSBank Auto Loan through his friends who talked about the bank's good service and how easy and simple it was to get an approval. "I first communicated with PSBank by e-mail. I submitted all the documents by e-mail. After a few days, I got the confirmation that the loan was approved. I took a flight back to Manila and presented to PSBank all the original documents I earlier submitted by e-mail," he said.

PSBank's Auto Loan promises simplicity in loan application. Clients will be notified via SMS once a credit decision has been reached on his/her loan application. The loan comes with very low interest rates and has a flexible payment terms that covers 12 to 60 months.

Very convenient

"It is very convenient because it is just a monthly auto debit from my bank account with the PSBank Boni branch. It was fast, efficient and very professionally done. Not only was PSBank receptive to my specific needs, they even went out of their way, but within the parameters of the bank's policy, to accommodate me. I won't regret referring the PSBank Auto Loan to all my friends," Sonny said.

PSBank takes pride in offering simple, easy and efficient bank transactions for all its products. Customers may get and submit an auto loan application form from any of PSBank 162 branches nationwide or apply online via PSBank Remote Banking or any PSBank, Metrobank and Bancnet ATM's nationwide.

Customers can also inquire for an auto loan via SMS, just type PSBANK AUTO PR <your name><your landline> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-890-2327 for Globe and other networks. Online applications are also accepted at www.psbank.com.ph.

REYES

Motolite earns prestigious Ford Q1 award

MOTOLITE BATTERIES ARE NOW CERTIfied for Ford's global supply chain, with the formal presentation of the highly coveted Ford Q1 award to its manufacturer, Philippine Batteries Inc. (PBI), in ceremonies held recently at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Ford Q1 certification is a time-consuming and labor-intensive process, and is highly-regarded in the international automotive and component supply industry. It requires a supplier to meet stringent criteria, which took PBI four years to complete.

Major accomplishments

Some of the major accomplishments are as follows:

In March 2005, PBI earned ISO/TS16949 certification, signifying compliance with quality systems standards for the design, development, production, installation and servicing of automotive-related standards. ISO/TS16949 is a set of global standards set and accepted by an international group of vehicle manufacturers in the United States, Europe and Japan.

In September 2006, PBI accomplished ISO 14001 certification, recognizing the company's environmental management system and its strong commitment to pollution prevention and environment conservation.

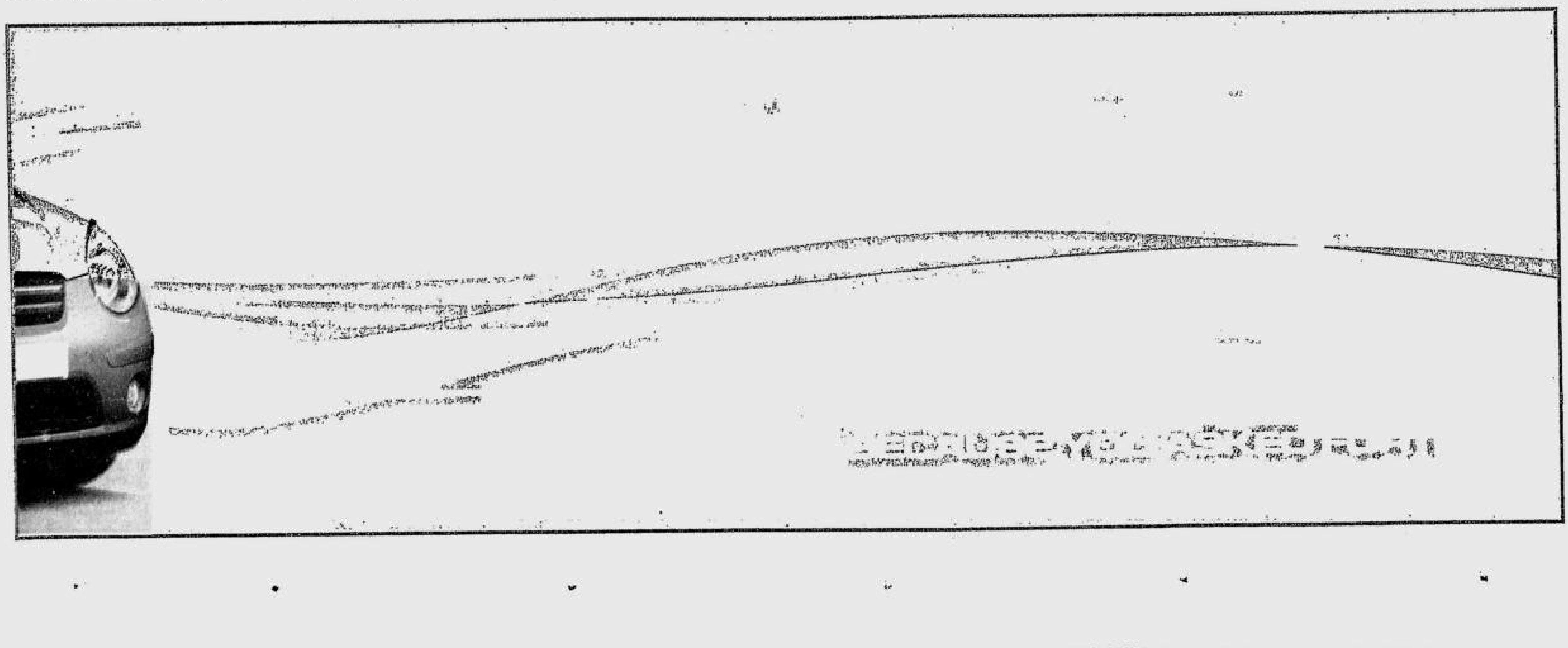
Another requirement is MS9000 compliance, a set of guidelines for Materials Management Systems, to ensure continuous improvement of information and material flows through the organization.

Ford Q1 assessment also required PBI to meet quality and delivery performance criteria, set at 100 percent delivery reliability and zero-defect rate in one million parts, over a 12-month period. While the Ford Q1 passing score is set at 800 points, PBI's current score is 1,250 points, exceeding the benchmark by over 50 percent.

Biggest investor

PBI is the biggest investor in manufacturing facilities in the Asean region. Its 18-hectare fully integrated facility produces maintenance-free automotive batteries with the latest expanded grid technology, as well as dry-charged low-maintenance batteries and motorcycle batteries.

With superior production facilities, the company has been able to focus its sights on the international market and now produce more batteries for export than for the domestic market. Motolite batteries are distributed in the United States, Australia, Russia and in most Asian countries. The Ford Q1 Award further underscores the fact that a Filipino product can stand proud against global competitors.



SCTEx, the time and fuel saver

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AS A MOTORIST, I AM GLAD THAT THE Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) project did not get embroiled in controversy the way the National Broadband Network deal did. I am sure that starting next February, this feeling will be shared by thousands of other motorists and commuters traveling north of Metro Manila because the Clark-Tarlac segment of SCTEx will lop off one hour from their traveling time.

Together with three other directors of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), the nonprofit, nonstock auto club that provides 24/7 roadside assistance at the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), I checked out the Clark-Tarlac portion of the P27.5-billion SCTEx last Wednesday.

Driving an old Mitsubishi L300 double cab pickup truck with zebra stripe markings, Deo Manuel of the Tollways Management Corp. led the way with AAP veep Johnny Angeles and treasurer Jogy Mantaring Jr. as his passengers. I drove a 2007 compact SUV with AAP director Angel Kanapi in the front seat. (I won't mention the brand of the SUV I drove, since its aircon conked out on the way back to Manila after a stopover at the Caltex station near San Fernando. Let me just say that it's not a Japanese, Korean or European marque.)

The 50.5-kilometer Subic-Clark expressway, will open in March

Package 2

After a briefing at the Clark office of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) given by SCTEx project development officer Darwin Chan, we were on our way. We were informed that Package 2 of the SCTEx, the 43.27-kilometer Clark-Tarlac stretch, will be opened to the public on Feb. 1, 2008 although it will be finished this December. Package 1, the 50.5-kilometer Subic-Clark expressway, will open in March.

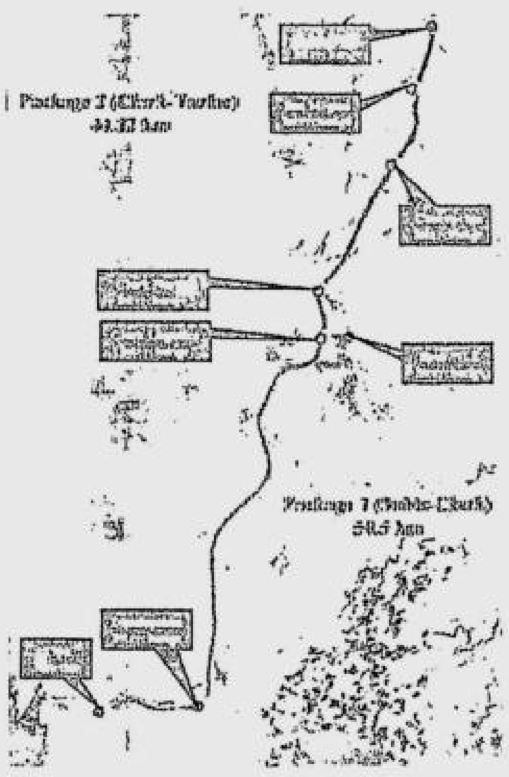
A BCDA project, the SCTEx is one of the three main components of the government's Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Program, the two others being the Subic Bay Container Terminal and the rehab/modernization of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

The SCTEx will provide the shortest, direct and efficient link among the Subic Bay Freeport and Special Economic Zone in Zambales, the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga and the Central Techno Park in Tarlac. The project is financed with a loan of 41,931 million yen, 85 percent of which is a special JBIC loan and the 15 percent balance of P2.804 million is the BCDA's counterpart. With an interest rate of 0.95 percent per annum, the loan is repayable in 40 years after a 10-year grace period. There is a Japanese content requirement of 50 percent.

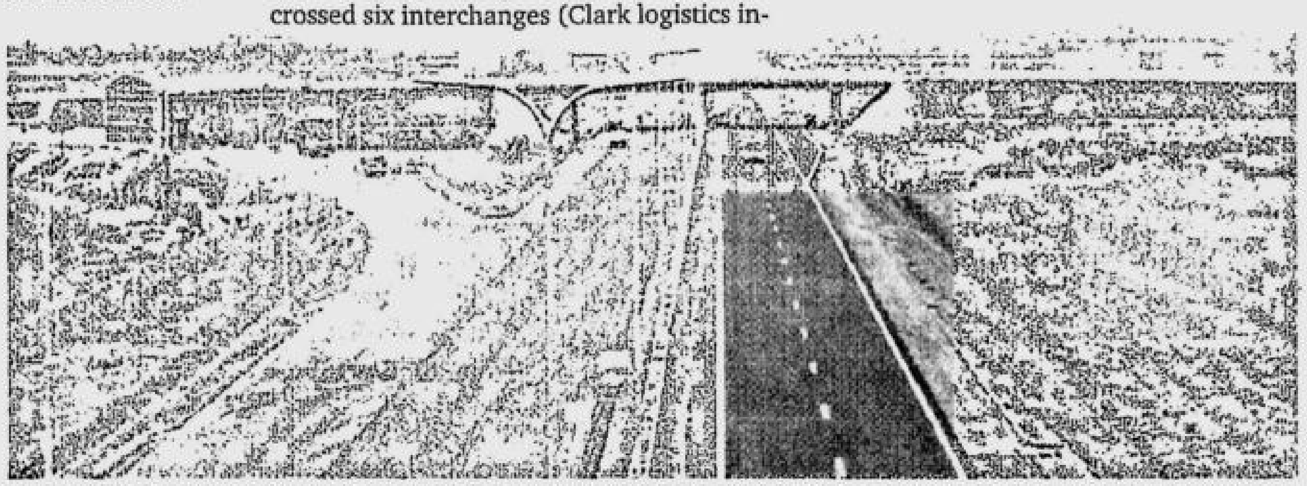
Design speed

Completing the SCTEx project involves the construction of a 93.77-kilometer, four-lane, asphalt concrete paved divided highway, four major bridges, 31 minor bridges, eight interchanges, 255 culverts and 51 underpasses. The SCTEx has a design speed of 100 kph, a computerized toll collection system and 24-hour roadside assistance to be provided by the O & M (Operations and Maintenance) company aside from a comprehensive flood mitigation system.

Driving on Package 2 of the SCTEx, we crossed six interchanges (Clark logistics interchange, Clark North, Concepcion, San Miguel, La Paz and Tarlac City), one main bridge (the 1.16-km Sacobia-Bamban bridge) and eight minor bridges. The contract price for the Clark-Tarlac section is P9.097 billion.



THE SAN Miguel Interchange of the new Clark-Tarlac tollway (BCDA)



THE SAN Miguel Interchange is one of six interchanges in SCTEx Package 2.

Since SCTEx Package 2 is a mostly straight expressway with no curves or bends and since the surface is super smooth consisting of a cement-based solidifying material, treated lahar subbase and base course, after a while I had to make an effort to stay awake and alert at the wheel. Maybe it's because of the 100 kph speed limit. The 43.27-kilometer stretch is still clean and uncluttered by lamp posts, trees or gasoline stations where one can stop to load fuel or get a bite to eat. It reminded me of the time I drove from San Francisco to Los Angeles in a rented Chrysler Town & Country minivan, when I had to keep chatting with my friend in the front seat and my two daughters in the back to ward off drowsiness.

World-class

While the SCTEx is a world-class tollway, officials of the Clark Development Corp. recently noted that unlike the NLEX, it has no emergency bays where disabled vehicles can be repaired without affecting traffic flow. The BCDA has assured them that there will be a two-meter shoulder clearance and two seven-hectare motorpool areas along the Clark-Tarlac span. Space for gasoline stations, convenience stores and eateries will be leased out, presumably.

Via SCTEx, motorists going to Tarlac will save at least one hour travel time and the corresponding fuel consumption since they will skip the traffic-congested Mabalacat-Hacienda Luisita-Capas stretch and will exit past the Metro Mall in Tarlac City. More good news, especially for Baguio habitués: the Department of Public Works and Highways may extend SCTEx from Tarlac to Rosario, La Union at the foot of Kennon Road. SCTEx Package 3, here we come!

New Volvos make their way to Cebu

IT WAS A DYNAMIC WEEKEND for Volvo Cebu as local executives introduced to the Visayas-Mindanao market Volvo's new additions to its product line—the intelligent all-new Volvo S80 V8, the robust Volvo XC90 D5 AWD, and the stylish pocket rocket C30 Sports Coupé.

Cebuanos were treated to an eyeful of Volvo treats as the Volvo Cebu showroom at A.S. Fortuna Street recently presented three of Volvo's freshest models.

In perfect harmony

Leading the pack was the newly launched all-new Volvo S80 V8. The epitome of Scandinavian luxury, the V8 not only speaks of a powerful 315 bhp engine but also of luxurious amenities that make the ride more enjoyable. It has a highly refined and compact 4.4L engine that delivers up to 440 Nm of torque.

Variable cam timing and the variable intake system contribute to exceptional fuel economy. And thanks to innovative emission control technology, it complies with the toughest environmental demands, such as California's Ultra Low Emission Vehicle 2.

Add to that ingenious features such as the breakthrough Blind Spot Information Technology (BLIS), a rear-facing digital camera installed under the car's side mirror to alert you as a vehicle enters your blind spot whether at daytime or night. In-car audio system takes on a different meaning with the specially designed Premium Sound with Dynaudio. It is a class of its own as its Dolby ProLogic II surround sound system with its 12 loudspeakers recreates a sound that's equally authentic at each seating position.

The all-new S80 understands that life is the greatest luxury of all. That is why it carries the legendary safety features that Volvo is known for as well as other preemptive technology that works on your behalf to protect not just the people in the car but other road users as well. Now, that's luxury you can really appreciate.

Volvo XC90 D5 AWD

Is there a bigger word for luxury? The new generation Volvo XC90 D5 AWD turbodiesel engine brings together the pep of a gasoline engine with the low fuel consumption and advanced emission controls, including a super-efficient particle filter. What's more, the engine's ultra-compact design also packs in 185 bhp and 400 Nm of torque.

This is taking luxury to a new altitude—and still having firm contact with the essentials. Empowering seating position. Sovereign hide interior. Premium sound music system. Innovative safety. It's amazing how smoothly all these fits into everyday life. It's no wonder the Volvo XC90 is one of the planet's most awarded SUVs. Because whether the road of life is a highway or a dirt road known by a few, this powerful, yet conscientious Scandinavian will take you places in style.

Newest compact car

Go for a spin in Volvo's newest compact car—the ultra-agile Volvo C30. This compact and sporty Volvo is fabulous to drive, amazingly functional and luxuriously comfortable. Superbly safe, too. It's not just crash protection safety, either.

The C30 has excellent primary safety, thanks to its agility, its terrific handling and the superb all-round visibility, helped by the unique deep-glass tailgate. Available locally in 2.4L and T5 variants, the C30 exudes youthful dynamism with its super sharp and accurate steering, and a suspension that has been set up for flat cornering and a sporty ride.

It's a stylish two-door car with state-of-the-art interior—including Volvo's world's first free floating center console, strong technical features, a high performance sound system, and a superior drive churning out an incredible 230 hp. Ultimately, it's a car that will be defined by the people who drive it. And it comes fully equipped with every reason to do just that.

VOLVO C30

Petron awards 'Sandosenang Milyonaryo' winners

ALL 12 MILLIONAIRES HAVE BEEN chosen in the Petron "Sandosenang Milyonaryo" promo, with the last six P1 million checks awarded recently in simple ceremonies at the Petron Cultural Hall.

Tomas Vargas, of Quezon City, sells cleaning systems for food manufacturing plants, food service outlets, fast-food centers and restaurants. The 55-year-old businessman claims to be a loyal Petron customer, and is particularly pleased with the new Petron XCS Complete Combustion System. According to Vargas, the new formulation has improved the performance of his 10-year-old car, with noticeably smoother acceleration and fewer maintenance problems.

Lost his job

Another lucky winner from Quezon City is Mario Moreno Jr., an agency driver who lost his job in August. Luckily, he had texted in his entry when he fueled up with Petron Xtra Unleaded two weeks earlier. With his P1million winnings, his wife Alma and their three children, are assured of a brighter future.

James Chua Tan of Davao City could not believe he was a Petron millionaire when he was first notified of his win. The 43-year-old auto supply parts manager says he has always been a loyal Petron customer and fuels up only with Petron DieselMax.

Rebecca Lafuente traveled all the way from Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental, to claim her P1 million cash prize. A sari-sari store owner, the 32-year-old Lafuente buys Petron fuel products in bulk, as they live in a remote area. Their winning receipt covered purchases of DieselMax for their truck; XCS for the tricycle which they use for peddling activities; and Gaas (kerosene) which they resell in their variety store.

Very happy

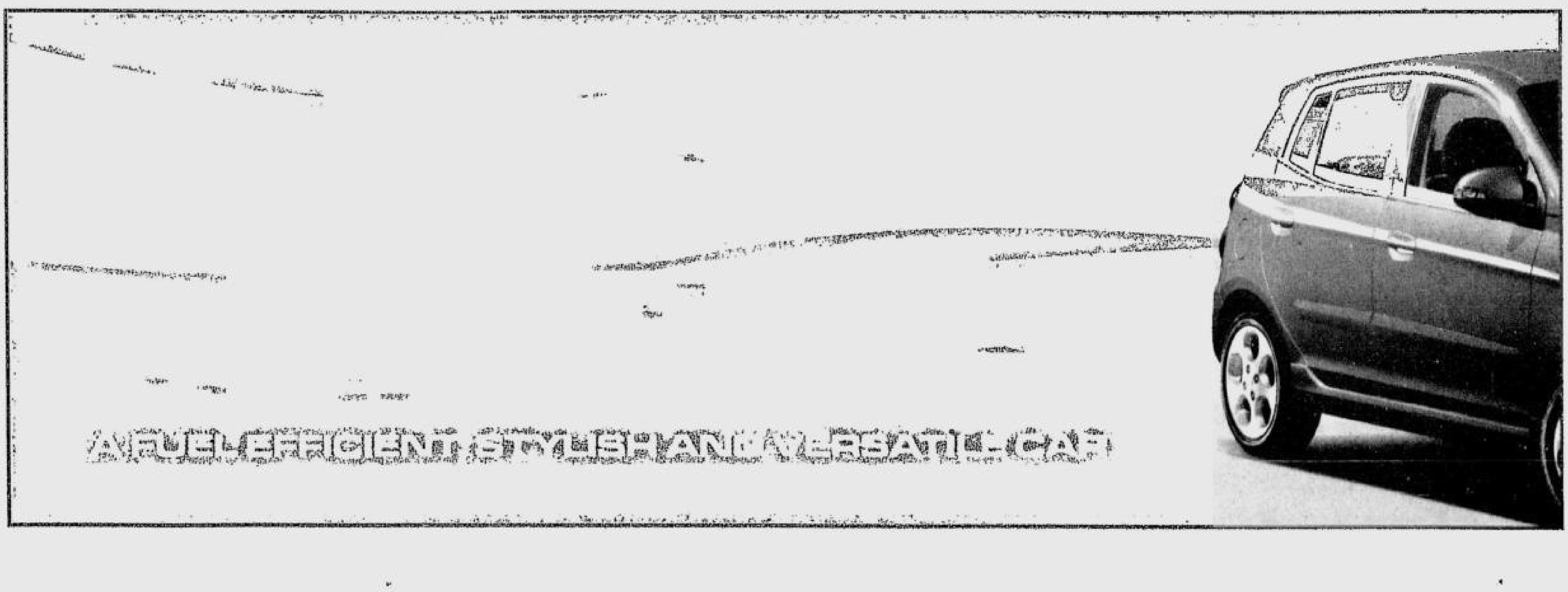
The general manager of a dairy cooperative, Romwel Escraman, of Talisay City, Cebu, says their company vans fuel up on Petron DieselMax. With his wife Allen, expecting their first baby, this 35-year-old chemical engineer is very happy to be a Petron millionaire. He says 10 percent of his winnings will be offered back as thanksgiving, while the rest will be invested in their small business as well as a house.

Leonardo Avelino, a 54-year-old grocery store owner from Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, regularly uses Petron DieselMax for his Isuzu Crosswind. With children still in college, Avelino considers his win a windfall, answering his family's prayers for financial security.

12 winners

The 12 winners of the Petron Sandosenang Milyonaryo are James Magno (Antipolo City), Peter Yu (Pasay City), Carlos Custodio (Orion, Bataan), Arnold de Leon (Muñoz, Nueva Ecija), Marilyn Megallon (Quezon City), Archivald Navarro (Las Piñas City), Tomas Vargas (Quezon City), Mario Moreno Jr. (Quezon City), James Chua Tan (Davao City), Rebecca Lafuente (Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental), Romwel Escraman (Talisay City, Cebu), and Leonardo Avelino (Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija).

Running from May 7 to Sept. 6, 2007, the Petron Sandosenang Milyonaryo was the biggest ever sales promotion offered by oil industry leader Petron Corp. In addition to the P1 million cash prize for each of the 12 lucky grand prize winners, Petron buyers also won discounts and gift certificates such as P100, P500 or P1,000 SMS gift certificates for fuel purchase, P50 SMS gift certificate for 11-kg gasul refill or lubricant purchase, and P10 SMS gift certificate for 1-liter or 500-ml Treats water.



NMPI celebrates 25th year

IN CELEBRATING ITS 25TH YEAR, NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc. comes out strong with the extremely collectible, totally loaded Anniversary Edition Nissan X-Trail and Sentra. Only 25 units of each will be released, commemorating each year of NMPI's firm presence in the Philippine automotive scene.

"These special anniversary gifts are our way of saying thank you to all Nissan enthusiasts who have helped strengthened the Nissan brand in the country," says Allen Chen, president and chief executive officer of NMPI.

"NMPI has come a long way from its beginnings in 1982. Despite the challenges over the years, the company has remained one of the automotive industry's major contenders, and we would like to extend our gratitude to our loyal customers," Chen adds.

NISSAN X-Trail and Sentra

Luxury, safety features

The X-Trail 2.0L 2WD Anniversary Edition comes packed with the Nissan exclusive two-DIN 6.5" touch screen DVD system, a rear backing-up camera with night vision and LED turn-signal equipped side mirrors. These are touches of luxury and safety mated perfectly to the extreme SUV.

The Sentra 1.6L GS and GSX Anniversary Edition now comes equipped with the Nissan exclusive two-din 6.5" touch screen DVD system, stylishly designed genuine ABS plastic aero kits and side-view mirror with LED signal lamp. A sportier, more entertaining Sentra to suit your active lifestyle.

Low down payment

Wrapping the 25th Anniversary package, NMPI also comes out with the low down payment, special easy acquisition financing schemes for the X-Trail and Sentra. A superb low down payment of P168,000 can be availed of for the X-Trail and P98,000 for the Sentra.

This promo is inclusive of one-year comprehensive insurance, three-year LTO (Land Transportation Office) registration and chattel mortgage fee. To top it off, customers can avail of the free accessory packs including back sensor, keyless alarm and alloy wheels for the Sentra GX, sporty body kits for the Sentra GS and on-board DVD with 9.2" monitor and back sensor for the X-TRAIL. This promo runs from Oct. 15 to Nov. 30 only.

Pacsports introduces golf cars of champions

THE PRECEDENT
Champion

FILIPINO GOLFERS NOW HAVE the opportunity to avail of what has become the golf industry's most exciting new equipment as Pacsports Philippines unveiled at the Manila Polo Club the latest top-of-the-line models of Club Car. Popular among the world's best players and top golf courses, the sporty, hardy and de luxe vehicles are considered the BMWs of the golf courses for their unsurpassed performance and unmatched reliability.

From the makers of the world's most-favored-by-champions golf cars and utility vehicles comes the DS Player—a classic, battle-tested, tried and true veteran of the links. With an all-aluminum frame, Armorflex body and rack and pinion steering, it is a fan favorite, just like a preferred iron or lucky putter, treating its riders to a smooth performance as the game keeps rolling along.

Then there's the Precedent Professional, which guarantees every driver—from major champions to weekend players—a great golf experience, with its SportDrive, hand-held diagnostics and Surlyn panels. Its strength, style and obvious smarts allow this flagship model to redefine the rules of professional performance.

Surefire way

And there's the Precedent Champion, which is a surefire way to align the course with the best of the best. With its character and construction, it moves its riders to another level of excellence. Not only do its 10-inch rims, premium colors and bold accent stripe give it the look of a champion, it performs like a champion. An inspiration to golfers and drivers alike, this stylish and sophisticated machine brings its passengers back to the clubhouse with a smile, no matter what the final score is.

Club Car Inc. has lived for the past half-century by the tenet that the golfer doesn't only grow with the game, if he's conscientious enough, he grows the game, and the game grows with him.

Phil Tralies, president and CEO of the US company, says "For almost 50 years, Club Car has had both the honor and privilege of growing the game. We're immensely proud of the golf cars and other vehicles the dedicated men and women of our company have designed, engineered and produced. Supporting golf has always been an integral part of our business. We look forward to continuing this commitment into the next half-century. We want our customers to view us not just as a golf car company, but as a long-term, trusted partner."

How can we protect them?
- Jaime Cardinal Sin
Dare to ask.
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VIOS now the country's best-selling vehicle

Toyota regains PC leadership boosted by all-new Vios

AFTER CELEBRATING A SIGNIFICANT milestone of selling 500,000 units, Toyota Motor Philippines achieves another victory by regaining the passenger car market leadership last September. This is largely attributed to the introduction of the all-new Vios, now the country's best selling vehicle. With leadership in both commercial vehicle (CV) and passenger car (PC) segments, Toyota regains the triple crown title, grabbing almost 40 percent market share.

Based on the reports from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi), total automotive market reached 10,485 units in September. Toyota sold a total of 4,187 units with 39.9 percent market share.

Toyota also continued to lord over its competitors in the commercial vehicle segment with 2,403 units sold, capturing 36.3 percent of the total CV market of 6,626 units. This can be attributed to the good performance of its CV lineup led by the Innova with 1,014 units sold.

Regains leadership

Furthermore, Toyota regained its leadership in the passenger car segment. Its PC sales reached its peak in September after the successful introduction of one of its most important production and sales volume model, the all-new Vios.

While the total PC market for September reached 3,859 units, Toyota captured a whopping 46.2 percent market share with 1,784 passenger cars sold. Out of which are 1,206 units of the all-new Vios, making it the country's best-selling passenger car, followed by the Innova.

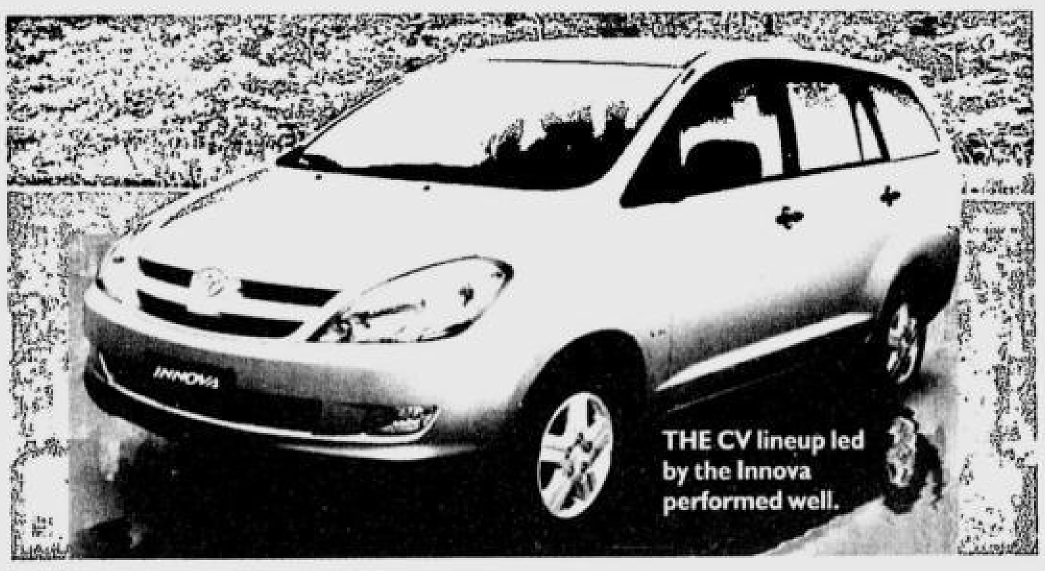
In terms of year-to-date sales, TMP likewise continues to be the No. 1 in commercial vehicles, passenger cars, and in overall sales, capturing again the much-elusive Triple Crown Title. Total Toyota CV sales is at 21,166 units, PC sales at 10,058 units and overall sales of 31,224 units.

Closer to its year-end goal

Overall, Toyota captured 37.1 percent market share. This brings the No. 1 automotive company closer to its year-end goal.

In a statement, TMP president Hiroshi Ito expressed, "We are well on our way on breaking TMPS' annual sales record of 41,801 units set last 1996. This will also bring us closer to our goal of achieving 40 percent market share fore the year. But we are not on a rush to set new milestones, we will do all this step by step, day by day, one happy customer at a time."

With its overwhelming success as evidenced by the September and year-to-date sales dominance and the recent achievement of its 500,000 sales milestone, Toyota has come a long way since TMP started 19 years ago. But because for Toyota, there is no best, only better, they will continue to move its products and services forward to help people get more out of life.



THE CV lineup led by the Innova performed well.

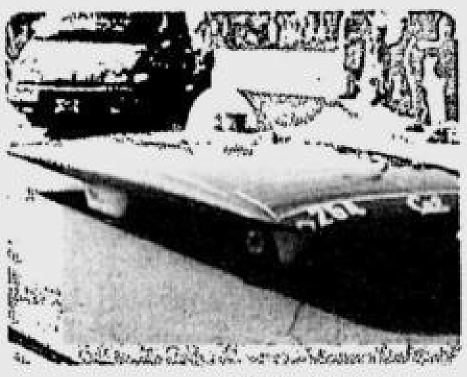
TRANSPORT TRIVIA

By Emman Cena

Sinag: RP's first solar car

THIS WEEK, THE PHILIPPINES' SOLAR CAR ENTRY TO THE World Solar Challenge (WSC) is expected to wow the international community via the 3,000-km race currently held in Australia.

Dubbed the Sinag, it is the country's first solar-powered car, a homegrown work of art of teachers and students from the Mechanical Engineering and the Electronics and Communications Engineering departments of De La Salle University in Manila.



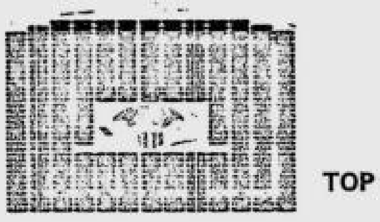
THE SOLAR car

So how does it work? A solar car is a vehicle which runs on solar energy converted into electricity by photovoltaic cells. It is propelled by an electric motor instead of the usual gasoline-powered engines.

Sinag, which weighs 295 kilos, is truly a product of Pinoy talent and engineering skills. The car's 6-square-meter top surface is covered with model A-300 monocrystalline silicon solar cells made exclusively in a Laguna facility.

You ask, how about when the sun is not up or blocked by clouds, can it still run?

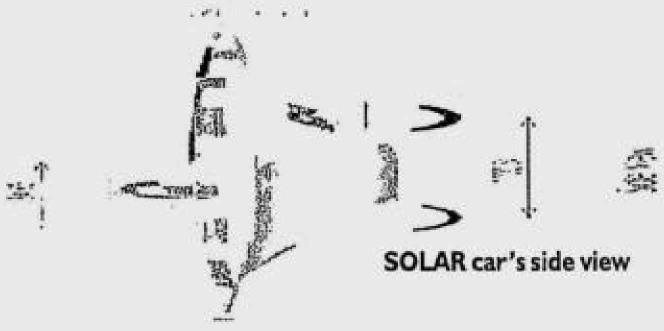
Yes. The battery pack provides a second source of power for the electric motor. It consists of hundreds of Lithium polymer cells for support. When not driving or when traveling at low speeds and consuming very low power, the solar array can charge the battery pack.



TOP view

The WSC started 20 years ago gathering young engineers and scientists from around the world to pursue the ideals of sustainable transport, by building a car capable of traveling across the Australian Continent on the power of sunlight and undertake a 3,000-km journey in the spirit of friendly competition. This year's race stretches from Darwin to Adelaide.

REFERENCE: HTTP://WWW.PHILIPPINESOLARCAR.ORG



SOLAR car's side view

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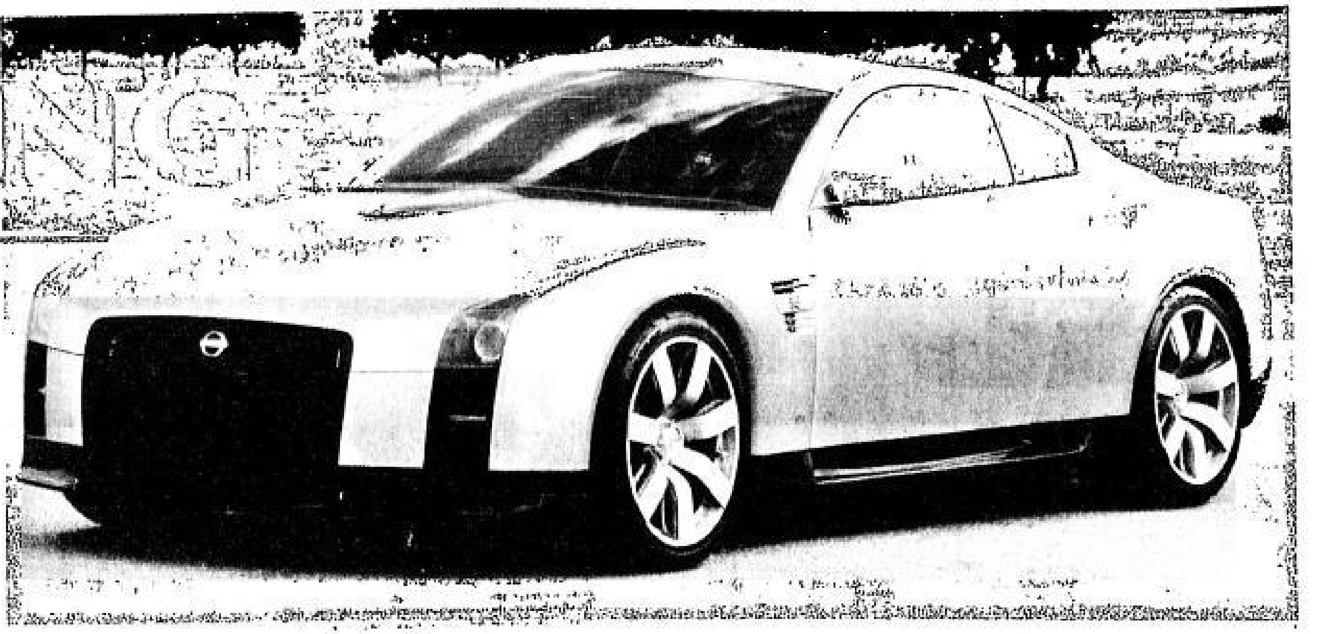


EXPECT the upcoming production model of the Nissan GT-R to closely resemble this concept model first presented in the last Tokyo Motor Show in 2005.

Tokyo Motor Show opens this week

By Charles E. Buban

TOKYO—LIKE A BIENNIAL pilgrimage, members of the country's motoring media are heading to Makuhari Messe convention center to get a first glimpse of the vehicles displayed and technologies presented at the 40th edition of the Tokyo Motor Show, the biggest motoring event on this side of the planet.

The event will be open to the public on Oct. 27 and will end on Nov. 11.

With this edition's theme "Catch the News, Touch the Future," organizers expect the event to provide participants a place to encounter exciting and thrilling vehicles.

More than 240 exhibitors from 11 countries and one region will have booths at the motor show, thus gathering the very latest in automotive products and technologies.

Highly anticipated models

Participants also expect that since this is their home turf, Japanese automakers will make full use of this advantage to launch a number of their most highly anticipated production models, most particularly the Nissan GT-R, Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X and the latest Subaru WRX STI.

"Expect this motor show to be one of the biggest ever staged. For our part, we will take this opportunity to announce the return to the market of our high performance sports car, the Nissan GT-R," informed Raymond Tribdino, Nissan Motor Philippines senior manager for market and product planning.

Having born in 1969, the Nissan GT-R is an iconic Japanese sports coupé in the Nissan Skyline range.

"For six years the Nissan GT-R has been the subject of intense rumors and frenzied speculation. Finally, select members of the Philippine motoring media will be able to view it ahead of its official unveiling," Tribdino promised.

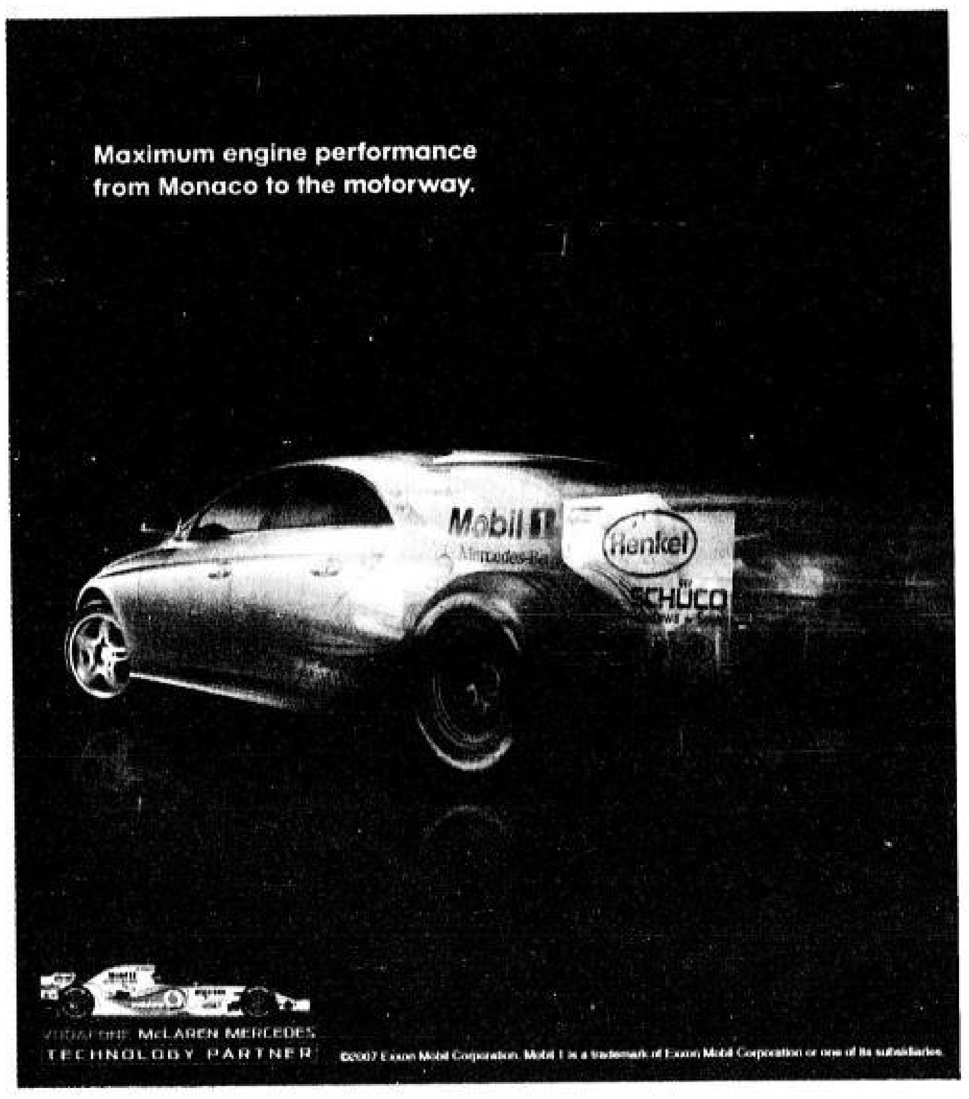
Not to be outdone, other big Japanese manufacturers like Mitsubishi will also unveil its top car, the Lancer Evolution X, which features a very distinctive wedge profile and heavily vented and ducted front end.

For Subaru's part, its 2008 WRX STI will appear to the public sporting a new mesh grille, more aggressive fender flares and shortened overhangs.

Concept cars will also be presented including Honda's future production car, the CR-Z, Suzuki's Kizashi 2 and other unique creations from Nissan (Pivo 2) and Honda (Puyo).

All in all, the 40th edition of the Tokyo Motor Show will present a total of 520 vehicles, including 71 world premieres (37 passenger cars, five commercial vehicles, 26 motorcycles and three vehicle bodies) and 97 Japan premieres (71 passenger cars, two commercial vehicles and 24 motorcycles).

Unlike the previous stagings, this year's edition of the Tokyo Motor Show will not only display passenger cars and commercial vehicles but also motorcycles, vehicle bodies, parts, and machinery and tools.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All hail the power pop princes

Boston-based The Click Five spills the beans on the band's musical growth spurt and the truth behind "Jenny"

THE BOYS succinctly sum up the past couple of years in one word: "whirlwind."

By Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

JUST WHEN YOU thought you've outgrown bubblegum pop along with pillow fights and pinup posters, along comes a boy band whose music reminds you how fun and carefree those times were—so much so that it makes you want to skip cramming for finals week and get up close and personal with the boys instead.

And that is exactly what this writer did recently with The Click Five, the power pop band responsible for such sunny hits as "Just The Girl," "Catch Your Wave" and the current chart-buster "Jenny." The Boston-based quintet dropped by Manila as part of their Asian invasion to promote their sophomore al-

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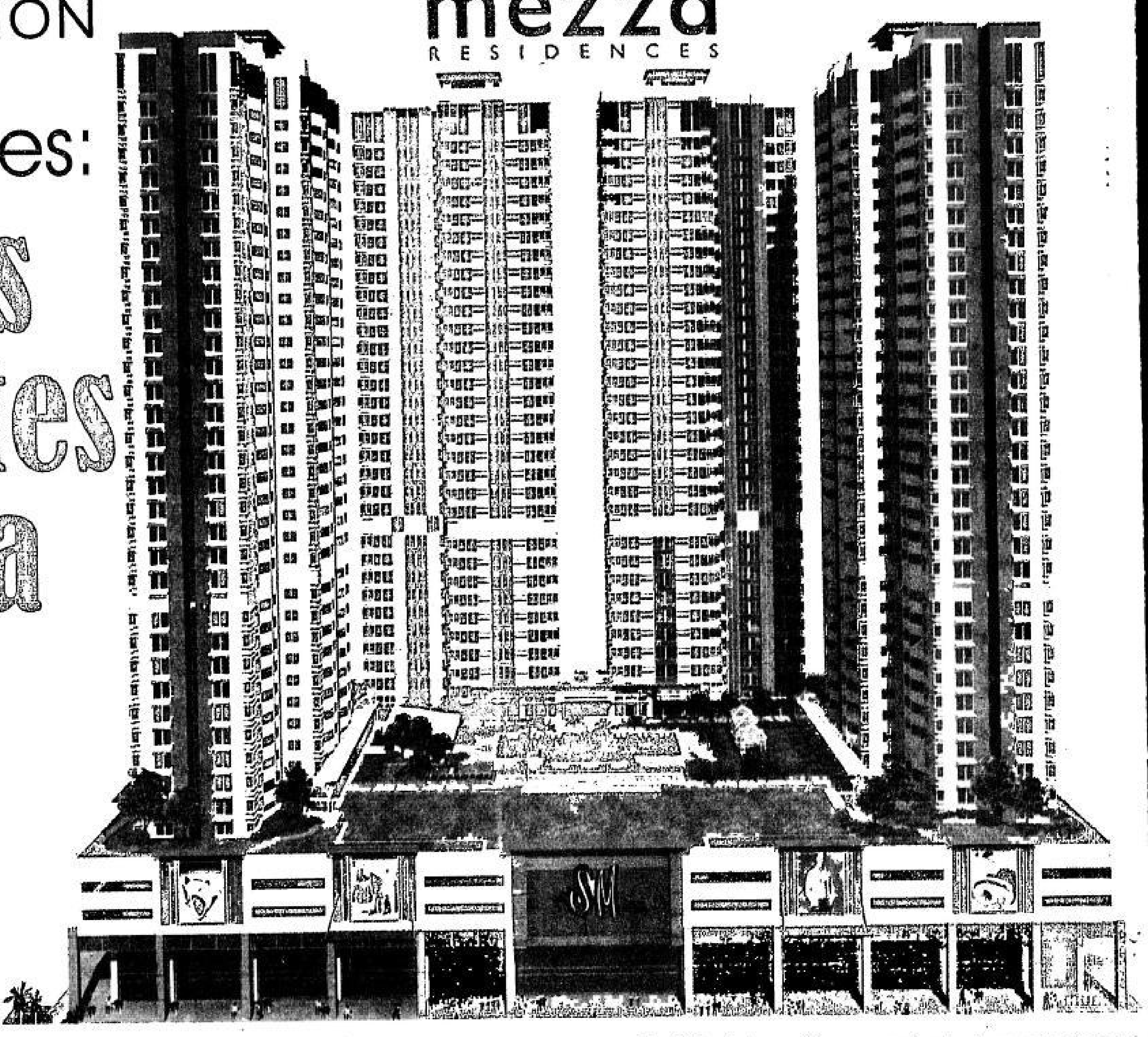
Mezza Residences: A lush oasis for urbanites in Sta. Mesa



By Joel V. Nigos

It's six-thirty in the morning. The Makati City skyline looks calm and fresh from your bay window while you savor your last bite of pancake and take more sips of freshly-brewed coffee at the dining area. The kids have already left for school, which is only within walking distance, and you're about ready to face another grueling day at work. Yet you look unperturbed as the mere thought of coming home to your sanctuary at Mezza Residences eases your mind from the day's weariness.

This is just one of the many ways that Mezza Residences - an oasis of lush greens and close-at-hand cosmopolitan comforts located right at the center of bustling Aurora Boulevard and Araneta Avenue in Sta. Mesa and linked directly through an exclusive "skybridge" to SM City Sta. Mesa - will shape the urbanites' diverse lifestyles when SM Development Corporation (SMDC) completes its first and benchmark-setting high-rise residential condominium project by 2009.

Designed to holistically enhance the lives of newly-weds or starting families, young or established professionals and students or successful entrepreneurs, Mezza Residences offers contemporary yet affordable havens in all of its four 38-story towers that command awe-inspiring vistas of the Manila Bay, Antipolo City and Quezon City and the splendid skylines of Makati and Ortigas central business districts.

Distinct features

Joseph Ramil Lombos, vice president of SM Development Corp, shares that Mezza Residences boasts of distinct features which would make the residential project unique. Since it is a property development of SM, he adds that the condominium's concept would also be defined by what SM stands for, "we've got it all for you."

It is a wide assortment from the minimalist yet homey one-bedroom to luxurious three-bedroom and from world-class amenities to retail and service outlets.

He adds that what would make it really distinct is having your own supermarket at the ground floor, restaurants and dining areas, and other shops and service establishments which would really offer easy access and convenience to our residents."

"We find ways to reach out to the specific wants and needs of our buyers and more importantly, we deliver their expectations," Lombos notes.

JOSEPH Ramil B. Lombos, vice president of SM Development Corp and project director of Mezza Residences

THREE bedroom unit

Ultimate urban sanctuary

Standing on a 1.3-hectare property with about sixty-five of it devoted to landscaped gardens and relaxing green-inspired facilities, Mezza Residences embodies the concept of an ultimate urban sanctuary that invigorates the mind, body and spirit amid the frenetic pace of city living.

At the heart of this urbanites' retreat, which encourages warm interaction among residents and inspires closer familial ties, is a sprawling 1,000-square-meter lawn. Here, leisurely bonding with the family or solitary reflection takes on a serene meaning, whether it is enjoying a picnic or fun games with the kids, a tender nap under the afternoon sun or late-night stargazing over a moonlit sky.

Weary urban dwellers will find health and wellness at Mezza Residences' soothing Zen-inspired garden, which calms the spirit in its meditation area and relieves stress at the reflexology path, a healing walkway that stimulates points on the foot the effects of which are similar to a light reflexology massage. Healthwalk and cabanas that dot the garden add to the tropical charm.

Fitness and relaxation form the core of Mezza Residences' deluxe amenities: a 25-meter lap pool with submerged lounge deck, a children's pool and playground, interactive water jets and wet play area, a barbecue area and an outdoor function deck and function rooms for entertaining.

TWO bedroom unit

Sound investment for a dream home

Imbued with both practical and sophisticated values, each well-planned home at Mezza Residences, whether it is a one-bedroom, a two-bedroom, a three-bedroom or a suite unit with cuts of 21, 43, 62 and 86 square meters, respectively, promotes full cosmopolitan living through efficient space planning and consistent use of high-quality materials.

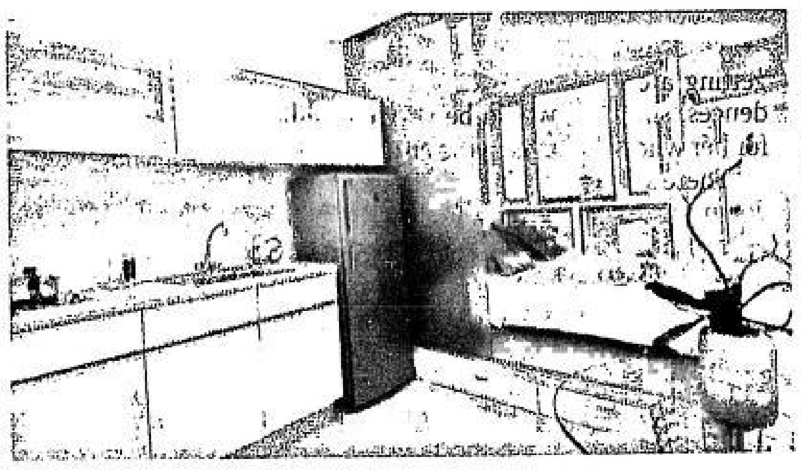
Glass picture window in each unit allows more natural light to pass through and affords a relaxing view of the outdoors. The high ceiling in all the units is a typical feature, which in suite units compliment the added space for respite provided by their bay windows and balconies. For the residents' convenience, each unit for turnover already has wood-finish floors, kitchen tiles and bathroom fixtures.

Among other design considerations for all the units include provisions for community or master antenna television (CATV/MATV), range hood, shaver and telephone and water heater outlets.

Residents can sleep soundly at night knowing that Mezza Residences is equipped with the latest fire alarm and sprinkling system, dependable back-up power generators and round-the-clock security. Worry-free living is boosted by a centralized garbage collection and disposal system and individual laundry-drying area for each unit.

Indulging in the good life

With the solid backing of the country's leading retailer and mall developer, SM Development Corp has brought into fore its creativity and dynamism as an emerging provider of premium middle-income homes. Through Mezza Residences, SMDC, like its typical mall counterpart, has covered practically everything that its residents would need - dedicating about 8,000 square meters of space for top-rate amenities.



ONE bedroom unit

Forming the base that connects the four towers of Mezza Residences is the Mezza Strip, a five-story podium with retail and service outlets on the first two stories and parking space on the next two. Its impressive array of dining and shopping options, including cafes and specialty shops, means indulging in the good life without ever leaving one's home.

Accessibility and mobility within or outside Mezza Residences is always a breeze. At the end of each day, residents are warmly embraced by the hotel-chic main lobby in each tower and conveniently brought back to their respective floors through three high-speed elevators. Saving on gas or simply deciding to commute, residents can use the elevated light rail transit system or hop on a public utility vehicle at the main roads leading to Quezon City, Manila or San Juan. Also within reach are schools, medical institutions and government offices.

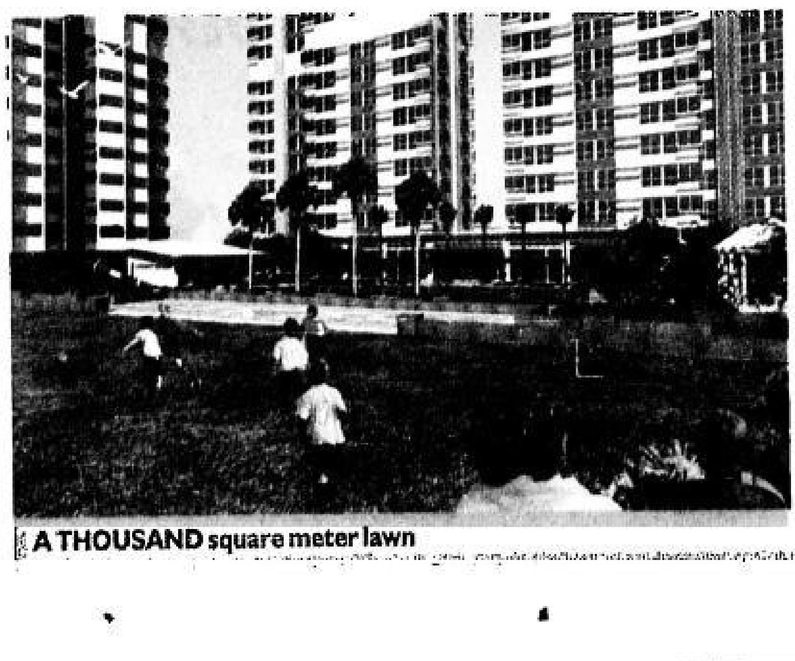
Fast-growing developer

SM Development Corp is a fast-growing property developer focusing on the middle market, expertly balancing key housing factors of quality, style, durability and affordability.

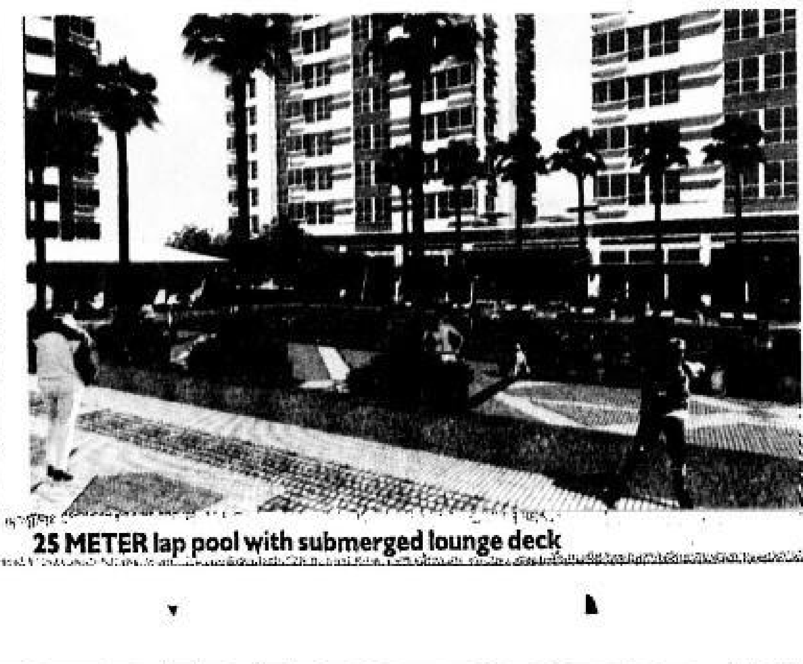
Mezza Residences is only the second project of the firm, the first being Chateau Elysee which is situated in Bicutan, Parañaque. Other developments are in the pipeline. These are Berkeley Residences which is conveniently located along Katipunan Avenue and in close proximity to prominent schools and learning centers such as Ateneo, UP, Miriam, among others. Grass Residences, meanwhile, is a stone's throw away from SM City North Edsa and The Block while Lindenwood Residences is within the rolling terrain of Muntinlupa City.

Lombos notes that their developments so far are very near or are even connected to SM malls. He reveals that what they really wanted is to provide synergy in all of their projects.

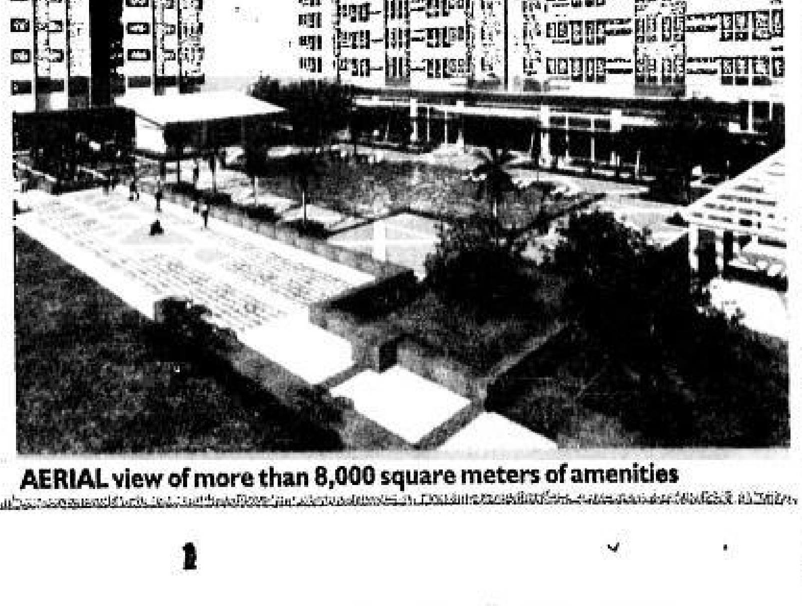
Urbanites longing for a city hideaway can now find their match with the lifestyle blueprints of Mezza Residences. For inquiries, call 831-5151 or 0918-888-7632 or visit www.mezzaresidences.com or www.smdevelopment.com.



A THOUSAND square meter lawn



25 METER lap pool with submerged lounge deck



AERIAL view of more than 8,000 square meters of amenities

They all agree: Mezza is the best deal!

A discriminating property buyer knows a good deal when he sees one. While deciding which property to invest in may not be easy nowadays because there are just too many to choose from, he knows exactly what would give greater value for his hard-earned money, an investment where he would surely get his money's worth.

Three of these discerning buyers have made their choice in Mezza Residences, the first high-rise development of emerging premium middle-market developer SM Development Corp. They were among the first buyers of the three-tower residential condominium project, which is backed by the country's retail and mall giant SM, even before its construction began late last year.

From an SM suki to an SM home owner

DRA. Petronila de Jesus

Optometrist Petronila de Jesus, who maintains a home on Mayon Street in Quezon City even while she and her family are based in Isabela, simply loves shopping at SM City Sta. Mesa-admittedly her "favorite hang-out".

"Kilala na nga ako ng mga nasa package counters. Maski sale at punumpuno, binibigyan nila ako ng slot. At yung mga stores tulad ng Bayo at Kamiseta, lahat yan may discount card ako. Kinukuha pa nga akong ninang ng iba, natatawa na lang ako," she candidly shares.

The 70-year-old grandmother of 11, who remains very active in her profession, operates with her daughters and son-in-law three De Jesus optical stores in Santiago City, Isabela and one in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. She goes to Manila every two weeks to take a five-day break from the provincial life, and getting a one-bedroom unit at Mezza Residences, she says, would be very convenient for her when she stays in the city.

"There's going to be an SM Hypermart downstairs so it would be very convenient to do my groceries. And if I want to go to the movies, tatawid lang ako dahil may bridge directly going to the mall," she says.

Although she plans to make her Mezza unit a private sanctuary, her US-based son and his family who usually stays in a hotel within the area can opt to spend their vacation there while they are in Manila.

Dr. De Jesus is also convinced that the SM-backed project will be finished and delivered as planned because it comes from a reputable company.

Comic turns serious entrepreneur

TIM Tayag, writer and TV host

He's been back in the country for about six years now since moving to the US in 1992 at the age of 18, and Tim Tayag - a popular stand-up comic, a versatile writer and funny TV host - has never been so serious as a property investor than now.

The 34-year-old bachelor, who also owns "a couple of properties in the States," bought two Mezza studio units and was able to convince his own Manila-based family to get five more studios.

"I did the research and I said to them it looks nice and it's by SM. The area is nice (good location near an SM mall) and the payment terms are so low. You won't find any condos for that price anymore," he shares. "It is also near schools and hospitals so I figured I could rent it out to either students or doctors."

Tayag knows whereof he speaks. His family owns a company that is also involved in real estate development, besides handling the water system in some villages and operating a security agency, which have become his "day jobs" while still pursuing creative comic exploits.

"The (property) market here now is really good. You get more for your money. Unlike in the States, especially if you buy prime areas like in California, the prices are really high. But then again you can also get a bigger loan there. But here, everything is booming. There are condominiums left and right," he explains.

Indeed, with a "very healthy market that is still booming," Tayag assures that now is a good time to buy, especially at Mezza Residences. "If you decide to sell it, at least it would make more money than if you put your money in the bank. The unit will appreciate by the time it's done," he says.

Doctor prepares for a solid future

DR. Rodelio Lim

Dr. Rodelio Lim, a pathologist working at the UST Hospital in Manila and St. Martin de Pores in San Juan, has never been fond of "high-rise living," but when he was told of the modern conveniences of living at Mezza Residences, he decided to invest in a one-bedroom unit with a relaxing view of the city of Antipolo.

At first, the 46-year-old bachelor who currently lives in San Juan with his mother, thought of it as an investment, one that is very affordable for him at the moment. But now, he believes that living in Mezza in the future would not be a bad idea at all if it would mean less worry even if one lives alone. "It's very safe. You can leave your unit without anybody inside."

He also considered Mezza's urban oasis concept, with its health amenities and a podium of service and dining outlets, plus its accessibility to public places and transportation.

"If ever I live there alone, it will be more convenient for me to go around the mall and do my grocery. It's accessible to public vehicles so if you don't want to use your car, you can just hop into the LRT while the jeepneys and buses are also right there. If not, maybe I could rent it out," he explains.

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mezza
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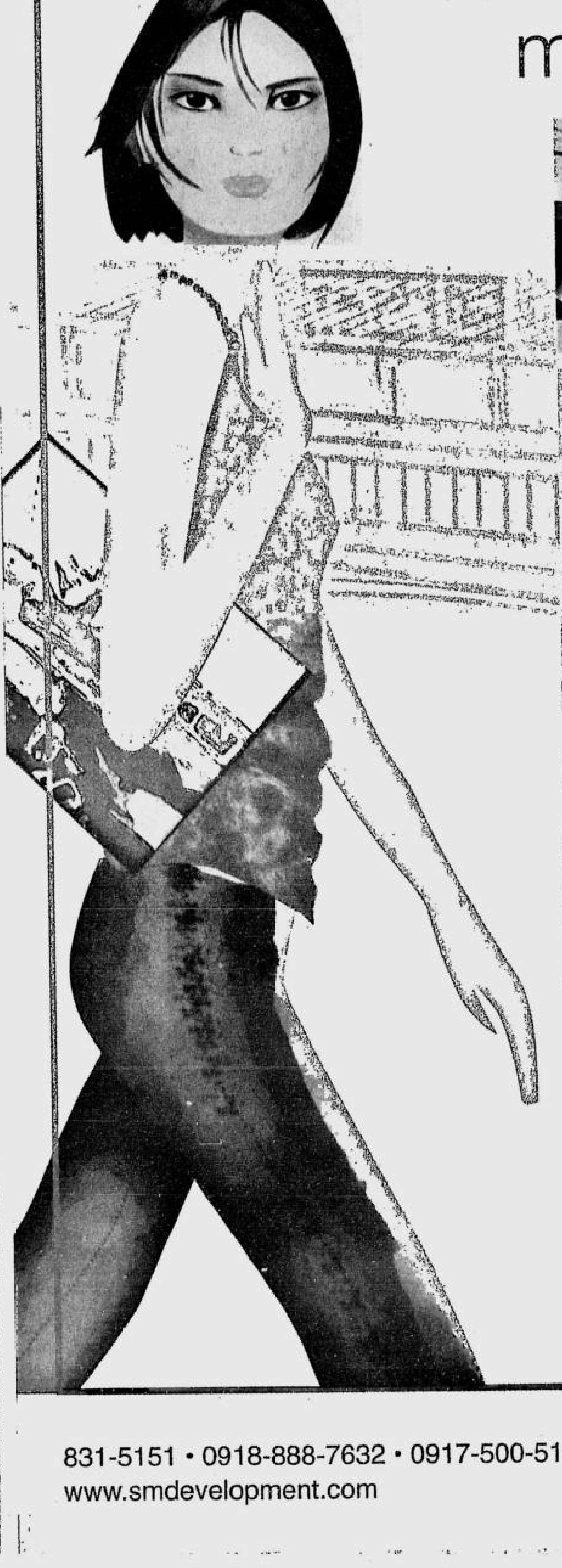
At home with your malling lifestyle



With Mezza Residences, the exciting life in Sta. Mesa just became convenient.

Being near important establishments and having an exclusive bridgeway going to SM City Sta. Mesa are only two of the reasons. We are talking about four residential towers set on top of a commercial complex. And since Mezza Residences is complete with first-class amenities like a pool, beautiful landscaping, and function rooms, you won't have to go far to enjoy the urban life.

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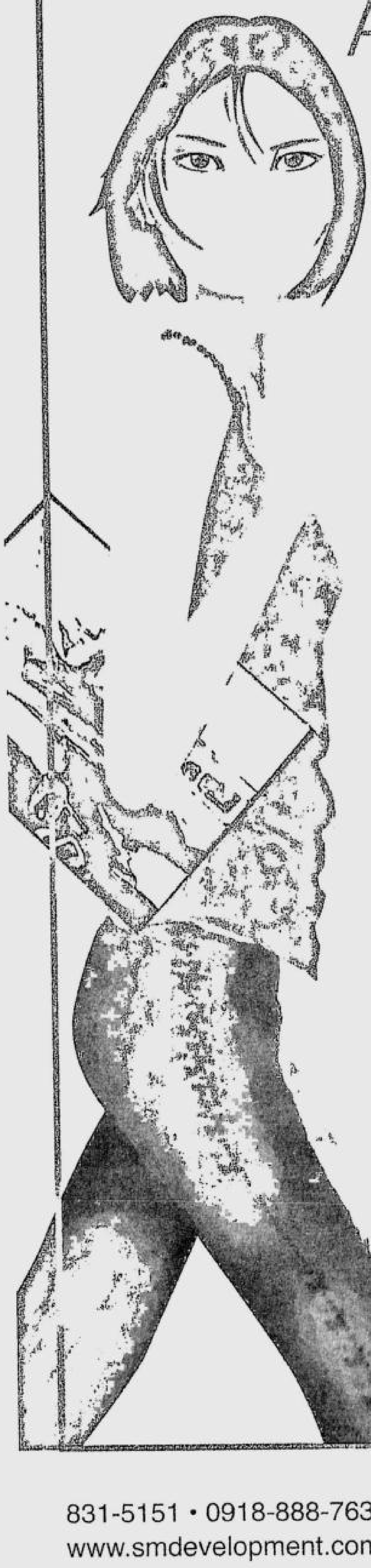

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THE CLICK Five just released its newest album, "Modern Minds and Pastimes."

All hail the power pop princes

Thank you for making the rock possible!
Cheers

COME WITH IT

Thank you Rock On!

Thanks for all the support! Keep Rocking!
Peace, love + Greatness

Hey guys take it!
Ethan Mentzer

From page C1

bum, "Modern Minds and Pastimes," along with new vocalist Kyle Patrick. Patrick replaced Eric Dill, who has left the band to pursue a solo career.

Whirlwind

The boys succinctly sum up the past couple of years in one word: "whirlwind." From jamming at Imrie House (the apartment building that the guys lived in during their college days) to performing in front of—and being chased by—hordes of rabid teenybopper fans across the globe, these guys have come a long way in such a short span of time. The truth is, they're still more than a little overwhelmed by it. "A lot of these things that we've experienced are things that we couldn't really have dreamed of," bassist Ethan Mentzer tells 2bU! in an exclusive interview at My Cinema in Greenbelt 3. "It's kinda flattering to start something in Boston then have it be recognized on the other side of the world. That part's pretty surreal," drummer Joey Zehr marvels.

Like all the other young foreign bands that graced our shores, they were dumbstruck at the reception they got, from the burly escorts to being mobbed at the hotel.

"We're, like, linking up arms and trying not to get eaten," adds Zehr with a laugh.

Then there's the fact that all three of their Ayala Malls gigs plus their RX 93.1 live set were totally jampacked. "The fans were amazing," Mentzer raves. "They were really loud and everybody was singing along… It was pretty cool to experience that."

Of course, we couldn't resist asking the one question that's on every starry-eyed teen's mind: Who, exactly, is Jenny? "It's symbolic," answers keyboardist Ben Romans, who penned the song himself. "We've all been through that type of relationship—things hot and cold, coming in and out of your life," explains Patrick. "I don't know if any of us have actually been with any Jennies, but Jenny was kind of like a symbol of that relationship, so it could be anyone's."

Good, clean fun

Sure, The Click Five boys may have gotten the mod look down pat with their spiffy suits and messy mop-tops, but they're far from being lumped into the derogatory "boy-band" category where all the members supposedly do is sway their hips and look pretty ("We're not that pretty," Ethan says matter-of-factly, and we all laugh). They actually play their own instruments pretty darn well, having attended the über-prestigious Berklee College of Music before they got signed.

The question is, do they sound as good as they look? The Click Five's signature power pop brand is all about good, clean fun (not the Gym Class Heroes kind, sorry), something parents won't be scared to have their kids listen to. If we absolutely have to go down the "Hmm, kinda sounds like…" trail, their music might remind you of Fountains of Wayne (remember "Stacy's Mom"?), or maybe even Rooney with a splash of pure pop. Okay, maybe a tsunami. But, heck, who's complaining? Either way, it's like one head-bopping joyride to the beach, stuffed full of sunny harmonies and eardrum-friendly beats.

But if you're a die-hard fan of the first album, "Greetings from Imrie House," don't expect the new one to sound as prepubescent. Aside from having a new vocalist and a three-month production timetable for "Pastimes," the band obviously dug deeper into their rock 'n' roll psyche for the latter than they did for "Imrie." "We may have also been listening to stuff that was a little more experimental," puts in guitarist Joe Guese. Aside from The Beatles, Tom Petty and The Cars, they've added modern rock bands such as Keane, Weezer and Death Cab for Cutie to their eclectic mix of muses.

Influences

Surprisingly, their all-original song repertoire does show off their decades-spanning influences, from the swingin' "Headlight Disco" to the synth-slash-new-wave ditty "Addicted to Me" to the more familiar breezy '90s rock, with Patrick's emo-pop vocals adding the 21st-century element. A word of caution: If preteen angst-ridden "Jenny" had lovestruck girls vainly trying to change their birth certificates, the mournful single "Empty" will have them tearfully waving lighters in the air… That is, assuming they're old enough to use one.

Growth spurt

Despite the apparent musical growth spurt the band has gone through, it doesn't seem to be affecting their ever-increasing fan base. While Dill may have had effortlessly hit all the high notes, Patrick's deeper vocals together with the band's slightly edgier sound are enough to keep their fans from outgrowing them.

They may still have a long way to go before joining the rock 'n' roll kings of old, but these power pop princes are perfectly happy "growing up" at their own pace, and their loyal subjects aren't complaining one bit. "The thing about being successful at something is once you've been doing it for a while, you can only hope to be better at it. Like with our music, it's for everyone," Patrick says. If you're itching for some fun, feel-good, totally expletive-free music, then The Click Five is just the band you're looking for.

Grab a copy of The Click Five's newest album, "Modern Minds and Pastimes," released under Warner Music Philippines.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@atenista.net

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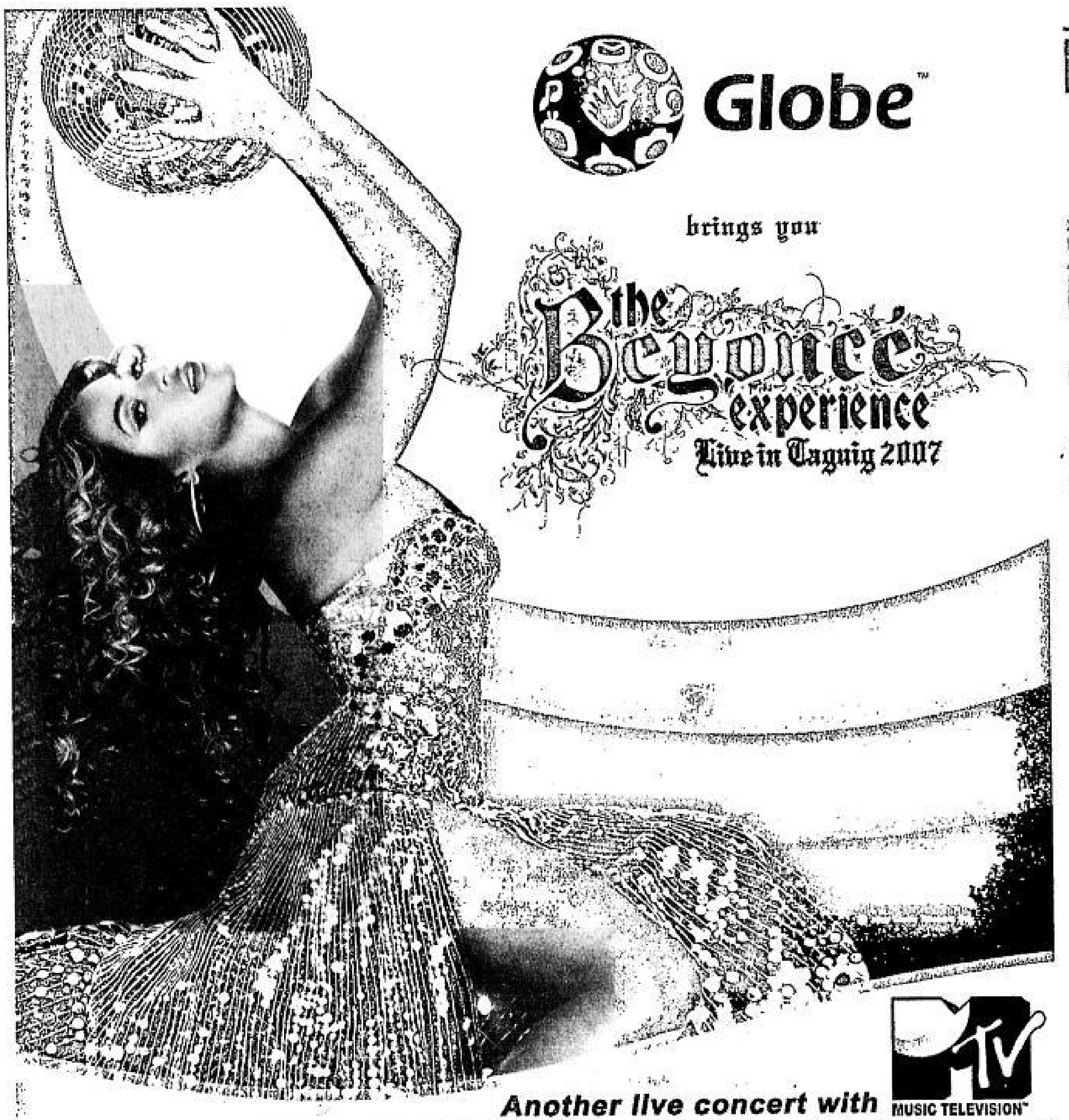

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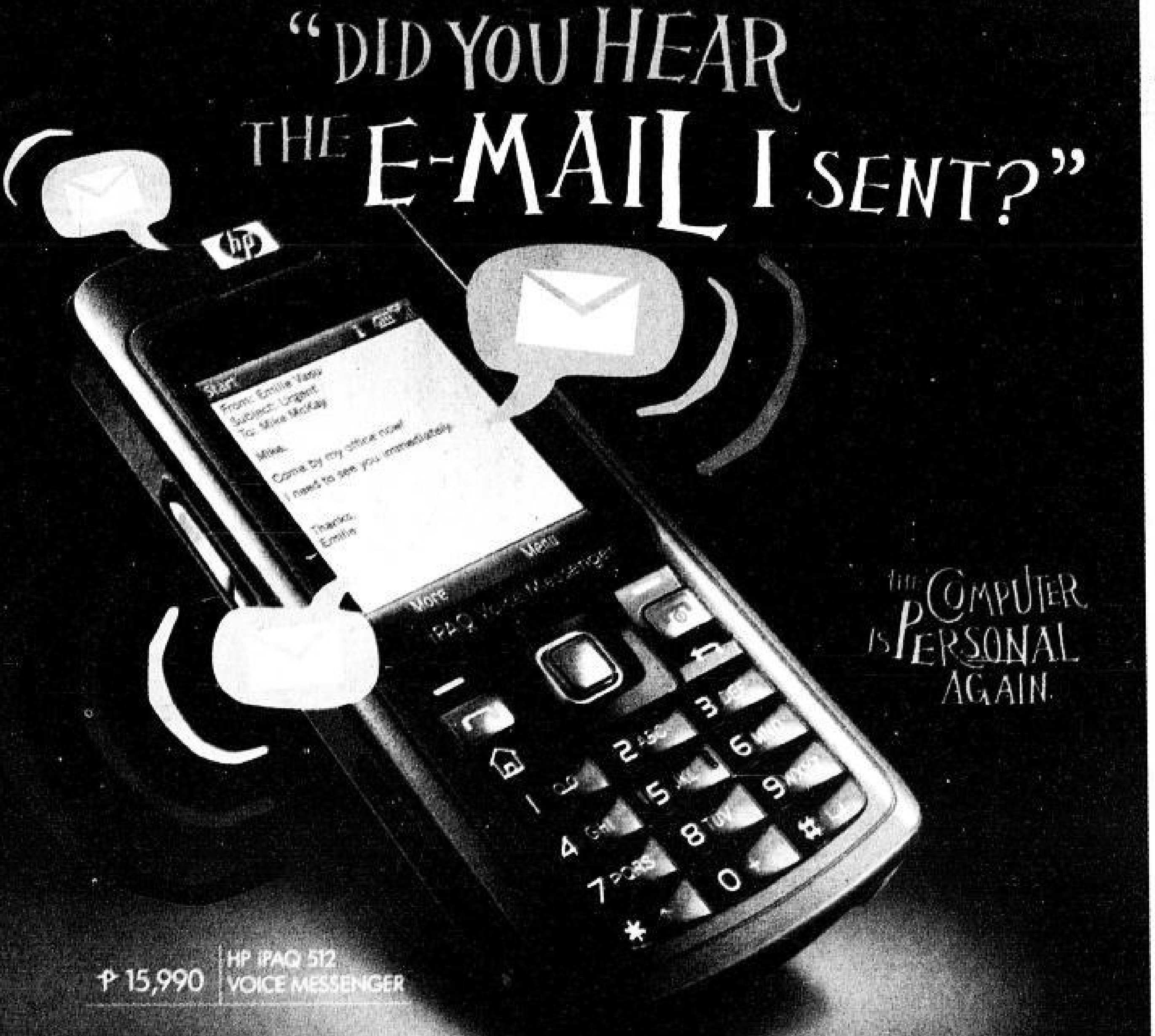

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LifeStyle

MANILA Alliance Soccer Club members Mike Uy, Raizelle Corcueva, Jacquiline Zapanta, Ruth Tablate and the author do early morning drills.

2BU! DREAM DIARIES

My own cup of life

Playing football gives one the thrill of the World Cup. It's really getting a kick out of life

Text by Irene C. Perez
Photos by Jeffrey Wong and Frances Gumapac

I WAS A SHELTERED KID WHO didn't even know how to ride a bike or play *patintero*, so when I broke the news to my loved ones that I would be playing football, they asked in amazement: "You can actually run?"

I don't blame them. Because they know that when you say "Beckham," I think of Victoria, not David.

Before football, the only sport I knew was billiards, but it was usually accompanied by beer so it didn't count.

I suck in badminton, too, where I've been in the dirt-low, bottom C bracket since I started playing on and off three years ago.

I've always known I'm a geek/closet cheerleader so I never tried to delve into sports. But when my buddy Jun Veloira introduced me to beach football during last summer's surfing trip in La Union, I thought I could give it a shot.

It was love at first kick.

I thought, wow, what a stress buster! I could be as violent and bloodthirsty as I wanted to be. I could smash someone's head and not be charged with attempted murder. But, of course, I later learned that it is a contact sport, not a death match; and there are regulating stuff like the yellow card (warning) and red card (serious misconduct) that keep you from drawing blood. It's all about discipline, baby.

INQUIRER FC

When we got back to Manila, we scouted for a futsal court we could play in. "Futsal" stems from the Portuguese *futebol de salão* and Spanish *fútbol sala/de salon*. It's the indoor version of football.

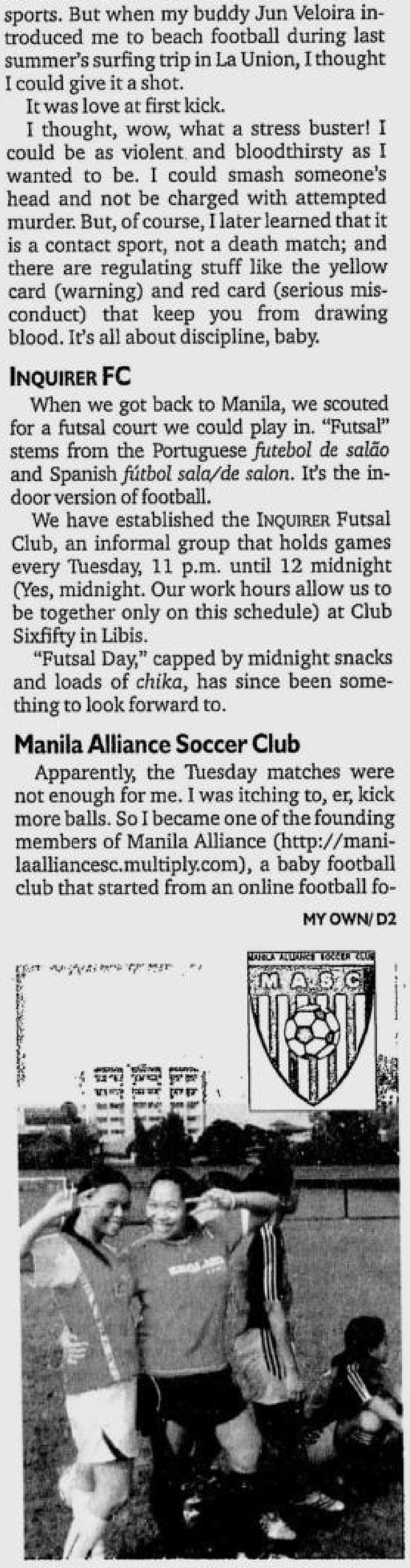
We have established the INQUIRER Futsal Club, an informal group that holds games every Tuesday, 11 p.m. until 12 midnight (Yes, midnight. Our work hours allow us to be together only on this schedule) at Club Sixfifty in Libis.

"Futsal Day," capped by midnight snacks and loads of *chika*, has since been something to look forward to.

Manila Alliance Soccer Club

Apparently, the Tuesday matches were not enough for me. I was itching to, er, kick more balls. So I became one of the founding members of Manila Alliance (http://manilaalliancesc.multiply.com), a baby football club that started from an online football fo-

MY OWN/ D2



FOOTBALL BUDDIES. Irene Andrea Perez and Vanessa Tagaban. Inset: MASC official logo

The tradition of luxury lives on...

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BENDING it like Beckham. The author (bent in blue shirt) with fellow members of the INQUIRER Futsal Club

My own cup of life

From page D1

rum of which I am a member.

The dudes who were seriously craving for football organized Sunday futsal games at a basketball court in Mandaluyong. And barely three months later, the FC has grown into 40 members.

We have a good mix of yuppies and students who are soccer virgins, former varsity players or coaching staff member, enthusiasts, gym buffs, jocks and the like.

Someone invites someone—a friend, a cousin, an officemate, a classmate, a neighbor and so on. Walk-ins are also welcome. It has become a mini-football community, and most of us have become good friends who meet up for off-court gimmicks and activities. Some members even started dating so, I guess, football is really good for the heart.

In true fanatic fashion, Manila Alliance now has an official logo, not to mention Friendster, Multiply and Yahoogroup accounts where updates are regularly posted by member Rod Policarpio, who religiously texts everyone a reminder a day before the game.

The team has also been "adopted" by the Cheng Hua FC, care of member Mike Uy, who organizes field games. We also have an in-house photographer, Jeffery Wong, who documents the plays through his shots.

With futsal, there are fewer elements to deal with, such as heat, mud, weather changes. While it is more comfortable to play in a controlled environment, pitch games can sure make me high. The smell of grass and the morning dew is refreshing. Clear skies and lush greens offer a break from my usually concrete and fluorescent-lamp environment.

Football vision

With this newfound passion, I started to wonder why football isn't as popular here in our country like basketball. I wish more schools and companies would offer futsal or football as an alternative sport. I wish there were more venues for us here in Metro Manila (you can't imagine how hard it is to make weekend reservations).

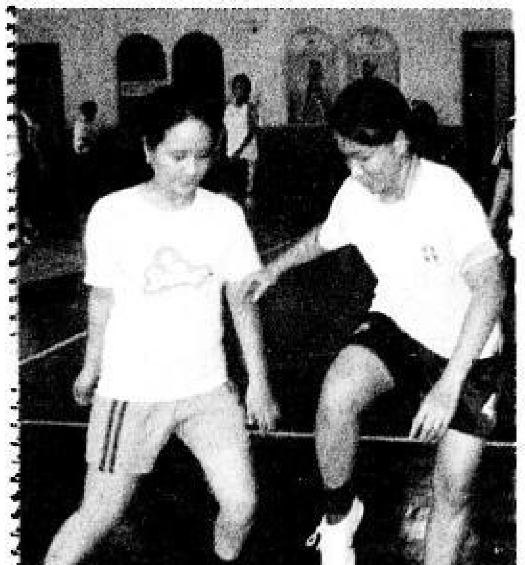
For my teams, we always hope our schedules would allow us to play more often. Our long-term plan is to compete with other FCs (yes, *karir na* 'to). We also want to secure a steady venue for both indoor and outdoor games, plus sponsors for football gear and equipment to prep us for future tournaments.

Personally I just want my weak ankle to get better since it has been prone to sprains. I also wish there were more football kits for women in local sports houses. Jerseys sold here are only for men (too big) and kids (too narrow).

I've never thought a non-athletic, top-heavy curlytop in her 20s like me could still learn—and enjoy—a sport. I know I still have a lot to learn (and I mean a lot). But now that I have traded the *kikay* stuff for sportswear, Nine West for Nike, and The Lifestyle Network for ESPN, this late-bloomer is bent on scoring goals.

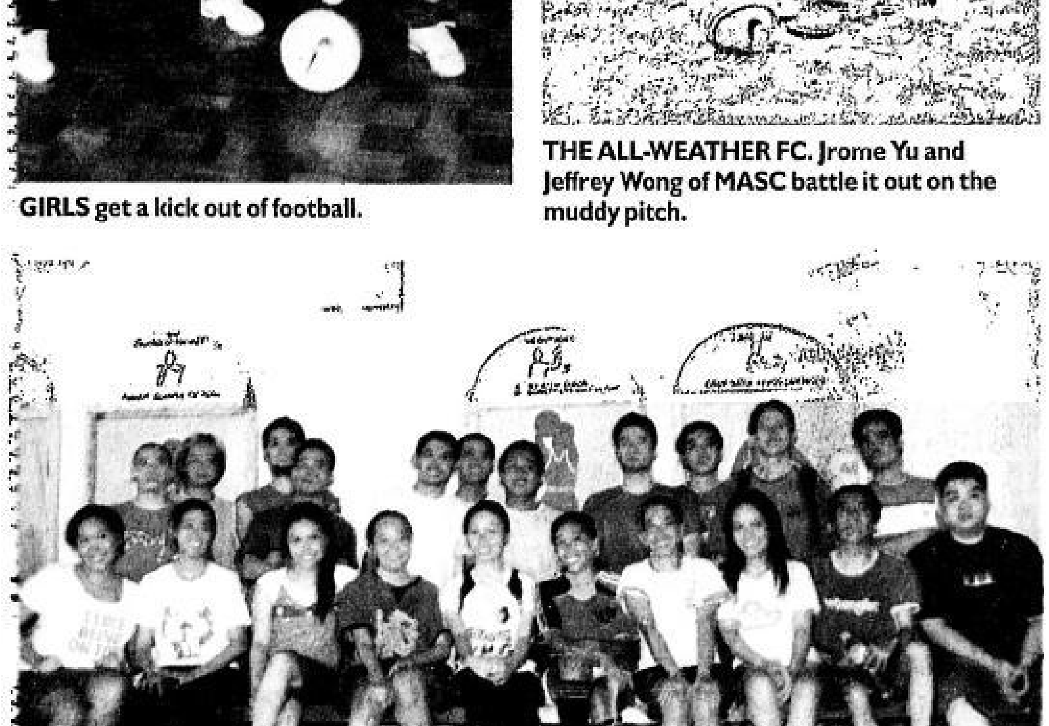
E-mail the author at iperez@inquirer.com.ph

DEFENSE! Against Lawrence de Guzman, formerly of INQUIRER Research



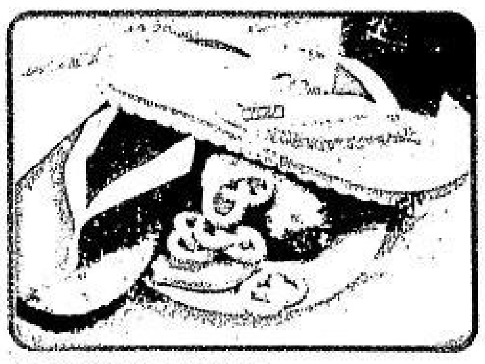
GIRLS get a kick out of football.

THE ALL-WEATHER FC. Jrome Yu and Jeffrey Wong of MASC battle it out on the muddy pitch.

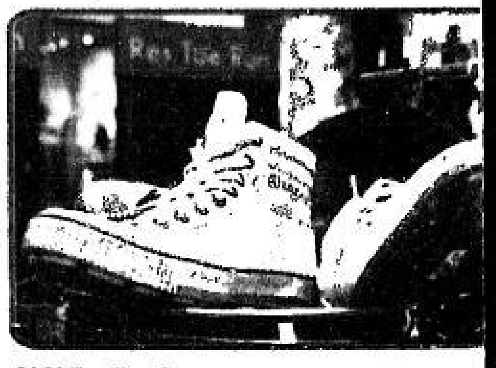


MANILA Alliance Soccer Club members

With rare, sought-after brands worldwide, ResToeRun in Trinoma is bound to satisfy any shoe lover's appetite

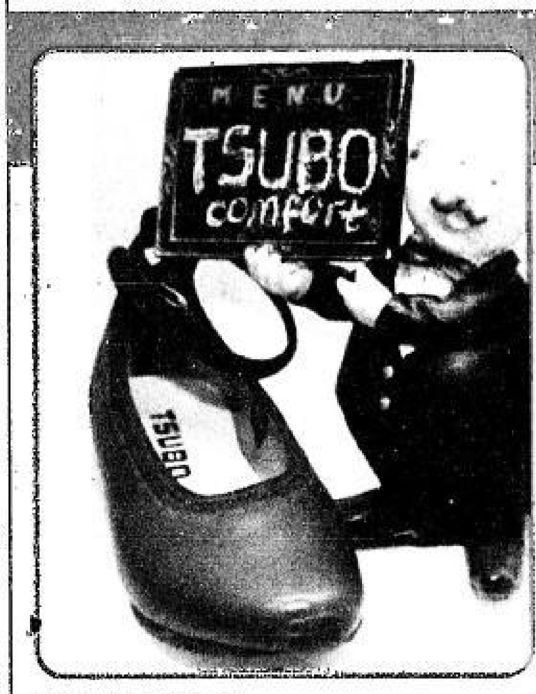


COLUMBIA collection



AIGLE collection

Food for th



PRETTY Tsubo flat

A SHOE store has never looked this appetizing.

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

IT IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND. A shoe store designed to look like a restaurant, ResToeRun in Trinoma carries international cult brands which are laid out like a sumptuous buffet. A board heralding the store's menu (of shoe brands) greets you upon entrance.

Shoe racks are lined with miniature chef figurines, as well as makeshift food delicacies like pretzels, breadsticks and fruits. The whole setup definitely brings a feeling of warmth, as though you are in a café or bistro… that serves only shoes.

Its name may seem like a pun on the word restaurant but ResToeRun, owned by the Primer Group of Companies, was actually named after the three footwear categories that it carries.

"Res" represents their comfortable line of casual footwear, "Toe" is composed of sandals and flip-flops, and "Run" is its line of sports shoes.

ResToeRun stands out from its contemporaries because of its non-mainstream brands. It carries the surfing community's favorite "sidewalk surfers" Sanuk, and Tsubo, which is known for its cushion oval bubbles for maximum comfort. It also boasts of French athletic brands Kickers and Aigle, the comfortable Lofu and outerwear North Face.

Bags and accessories like the graffiti-inspired Tagger and Timbuk2 bicycle messenger bags are also available.

Email the author at chloe_dominique @yahoo.com

Denim aesthetics

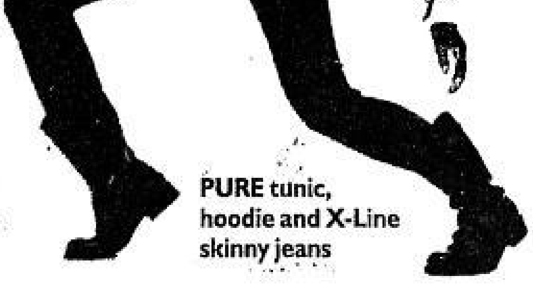
THE "LEE IS ART" CAMPAIGN DEFINES rebellion, rock n' roll and liberation. It's taking art to the streets.

Lee X-Line has innovative construction and a variety of superior fits, and is of premium quality.

The new line is grungier, influenced by rock-inspired themes, embodying a tougher and more sophisticated attitude.

Raw and dark denim is a key finish with superslim fit for guys and higher-waisted fit for girls.

Denim dresses, minis and vests give diversity to the chicks while guys can party like rockstars with structured ritual-influenced tees, flannel check shirts and moto denim jackets.



PURE tunic, hoodie and X-Line skinny jeans

Encore for NGF

DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND, APPETITE magazine will sponsor the fundraising event for the Natasha Goulbourn Foundation today, at 7:15 p.m., at Club Mwah!

The Natasha Goulbourn Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose primary objective is to promote an enhanced understanding of depression through education and communication.

There is an urgent need to empower individuals suffering from depression with resources, professionals and organizations that can open new doors in their journey to self-discovery and well-being.

Guest chef Billy King whips up a healthy menu. Special guest performers include Michael Williams, May Bayot, Mitch Valdez, Rem Zamora, plus Mary Ann Lumen, Bon Soler and Lisa Tinio from the Clara Ramona Flamenco Dance School.

Call 8116856 or 8972217.

Camsur holds wakeboarding festival

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT of Camarines Sur, under Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., and the Philippine Water Ski and Wakeboard Federation will hold the Second Philippine Cable Wakeboarding Nationals at the Camsur Watersports Complex (CWC) in Camarines Sur Oct. 26-28.

The tournament determines the best cable wakeboarders in the country. The event also showcases some of the world's best wakeboarders from other countries such as Keith Lidberg, Brian Grubb, Brandon Thomas, Shawn Perry, Pat Panakos, Courtney Panakos and Lu Le, who will perform in an international exhibition and conduct wakeboarding clinics.

The CWC is also a venue for parties and concerts.

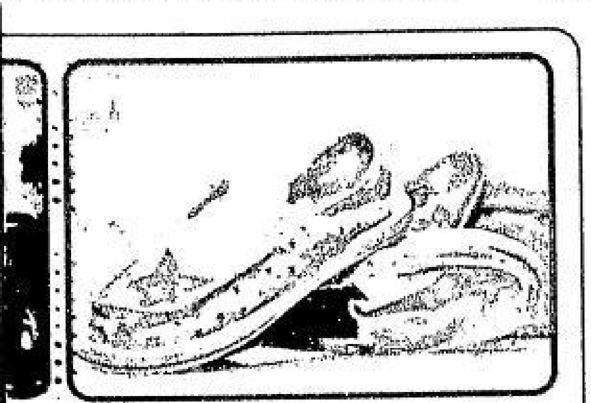
Concerts will be held at the CWC Oct. 26-28. Performers are Imago, Sunflower Daycamp, Mayonnaise and DJ Eurich of Embassy.

THE TOURNAMENT will determine the best cable wakeboarders in the country.

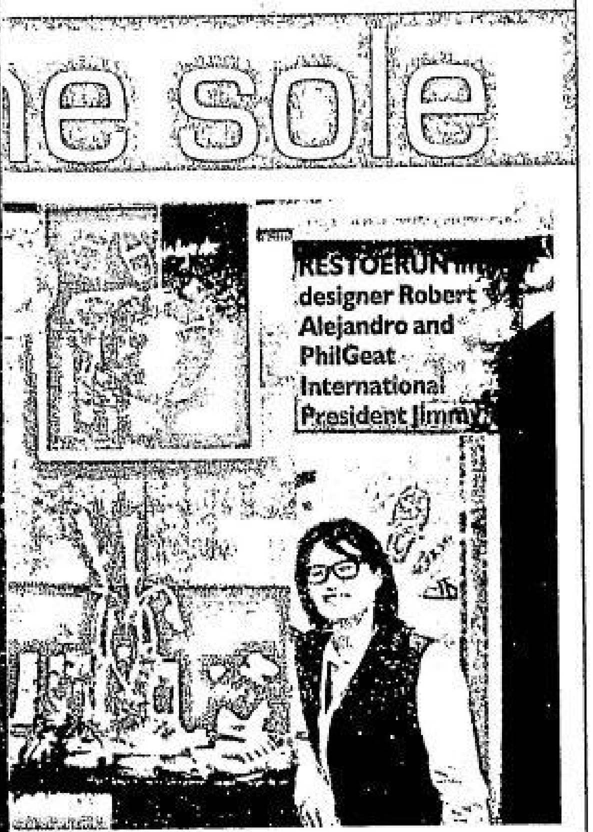
On Oct. 26, the preliminary swimsuit competition of the Ms Earth beauty contest will be held. Also to be unveiled is the Bikini Fashion Show by Kycs.

The CWS is located within the Provincial Capitol Complex in Cadlan, Pili, Camarines Sur. It is an impressive six-hectare lake. More than just an avenue for water sports (wakeboarding, knee boarding, water skiing, wake skating), it is also a recreation area with facilities such as pool, spa pavilions, beach volleyball area, and a clubhouse for dining, games and entertainment.

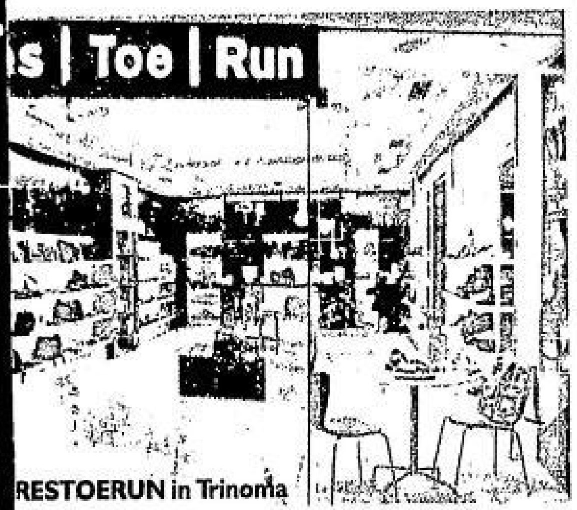
The CWC also has a pro-shop, a skate park and a bike park. It is also a WiFi hotspot for people who want to have fun while staying connected.



SANUK collection



RESTOERUN ... designer Robert Alejandro and PhilGeat International President Jimmy



RESTOERUN in Trinoma

Detectives . . .

From page D4

just taking back what was his after the lady, who was under the influence of Axe Vice, took his dream phone away. But while the random guy was exposed as the perpetrator, the lady was eventually escorted to out of the mall by the guards.

Excellent skills

Team 15, composed of Edmond Gudani and Angelo Carlo Malate, was able to correctly identify the perpetrator after finishing all the challenges in the shortest span of time. Thanks to their excellent observation and analytical skills, teamwork and great desire to be part of the Investigation Unit, the duo emerged as champions, winning them a P30,000 cash prize and premium items from the sponsors.

Second placers Ma. Teresita Patricia Borra and Christopher Padilla won P20,000 and premium items, while third placers Jonathan Cruz and Ana Narleah Bonifacio Cruz went home with P10,000 and premium items.

The CSI: Miami Investigation Challenge was held to promote Season 5 of the worldwide hit TV series, "CSI: Miami," shown on AXN in the country every Wednesday at 10 p.m.

E-mail the author at ninomarksablan@yahoo.com

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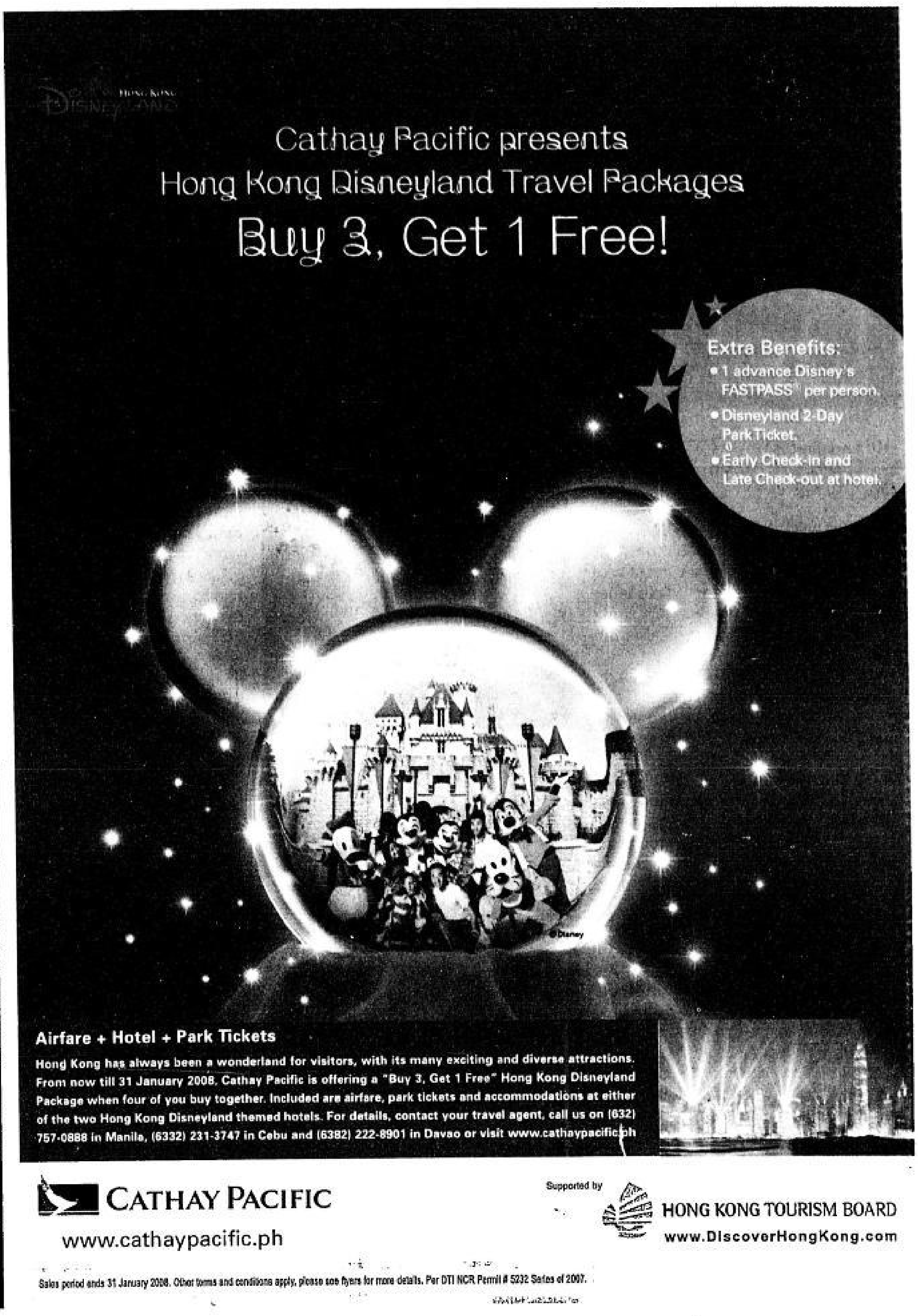

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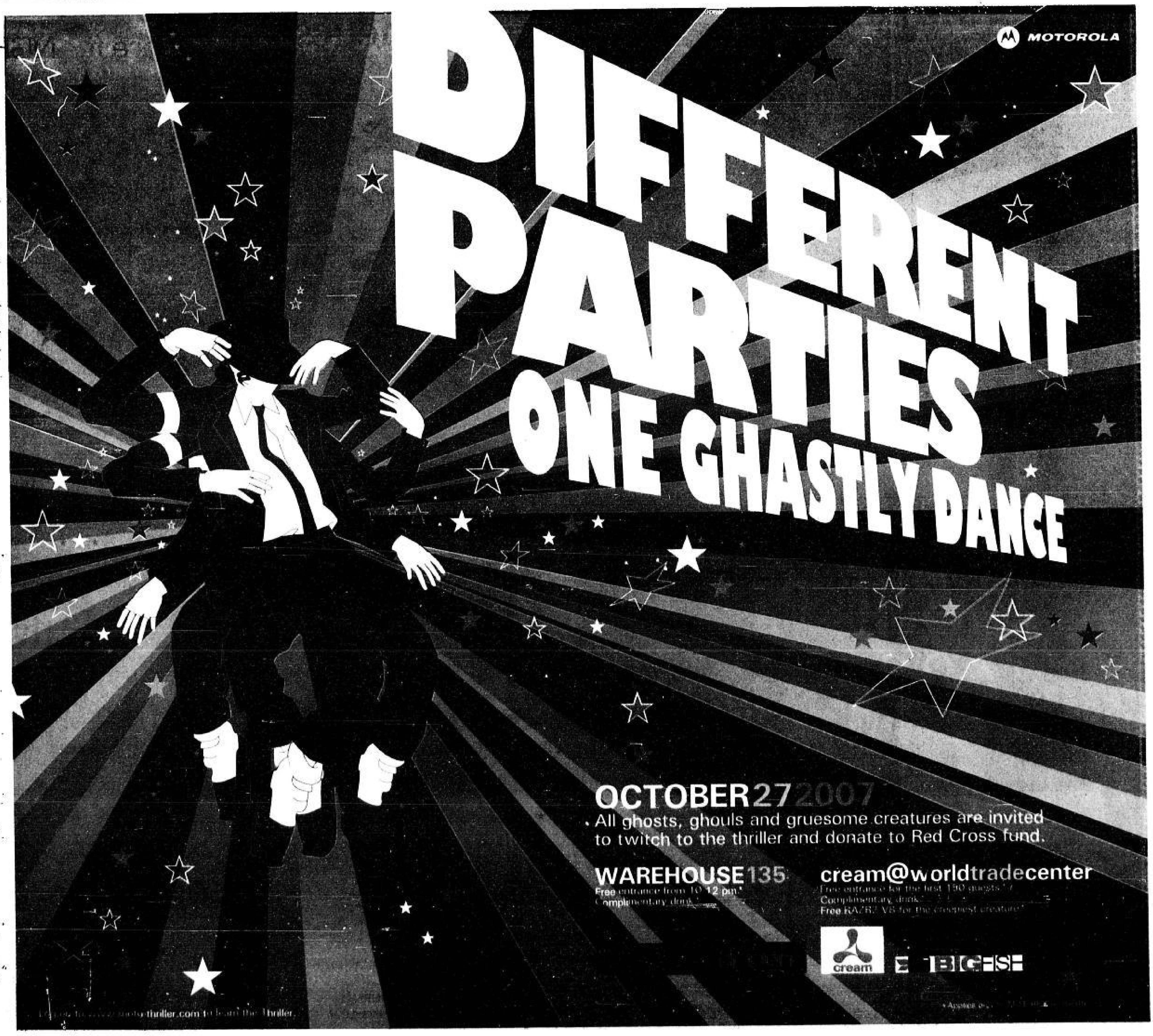

OCTOBER 27 2007
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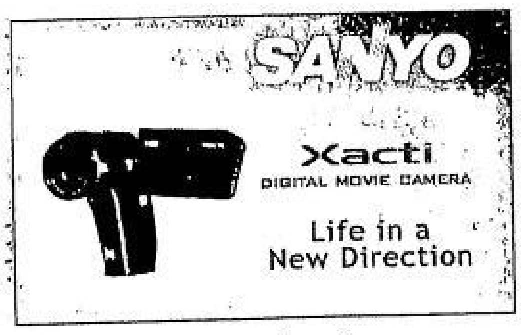
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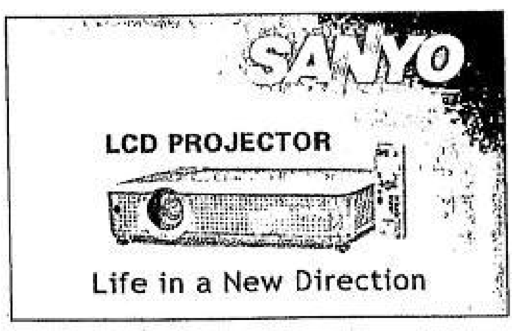
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CSI: MIAMI
axe

THE TOP 3 winners of the" CSI: Miami Investigation Challenge"

AXN stages the first-ever CSI: Miami Investigation Challenge at SM Mall of Asia

Detectives for a day

A PARTICIPANT piggybacks on her teammate as part of the game.

Text and photos by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

LEADING INTERNATIONAL ACtion and adventure channel AXN recently attracted a horde of crime-cene investigator wannabes when it staged the first-ever "CSI: Miami Investigation Challenge" at SM Mall of Asia.

From the hundreds of interested individuals who wanted to be Horatio Caine for a day, only 30 teams of two got to qualify as contestants at the first-ever Investigation Challenge in the country. The event saw the sleuths-for-a-day dusting for fingerprints, examining evidence and interrogating suspects.

While hot bands Moonstar 88 and Pupil (led by the charismatic Ely Buendia) gave the crowd a musical treat, event hosts Chico and Delamar from Monster Radio RX 93.1 facilitated exciting games that gave away cool prizes from sponsors Samsung and Axe Vice.

Donning the official Investigation Challenge shirt and armed with their very own CSI Kit plus a passport that they had to fill with earned stamps, the teams were briefed about the case they had to solve: a woman had just misplaced a very valuable item (which they had to identify themselves) at the enormous mall and the perpetrator needed to be identified.

Task number one was to figure out the location of their first challenge, basing on a photo. The specified location was the corridor of the first level where there were five mandatory checkpoints that teams could visit in any sequence. Each checkpoint had a clue that would help the teams solve The Case of the Missing Item, but before they were given the clue, each team had to earn a stamp first by accomplishing a physical task (hard work) or a mental task (guess work).

SEARCHING for evidence in a large pool of styrofoam balls

APART from physical tasks, contestants also had to solve mental challenges inside tents.

To earn the stamps, the detective duos had to search for a picture of a Samsung cell phone with the Axe Vice logo as wallpaper in a large pool of Styrofoam balls, or solve a 150-piece puzzle of the image; ride a team-mate piggy backstyle and cross one point to another while avoiding X marks on the floor, or spot a hidden X mark in a giant map of the SM Mall of Asia; inflate five giant balloons using only two handheld air pumps, or match acetate shoe prints to photos of the shoes; walk straight on a long line of police tape while carrying a pole with two bags filled with stones, or match three shoulder bags with their corresponding parts; and rummage through a woman's closet and find three items that didn't belong there, or decipher a hidden message using a numerical decoding system.

Once all five checkpoints were completed, the teams were finally given the clues to aid them in the case: the missing item, its last known location, the people last seen within the vicinity when it got lost, the bag where it was taken from and the complete profile of the victim—the lady who lost the valuable item.

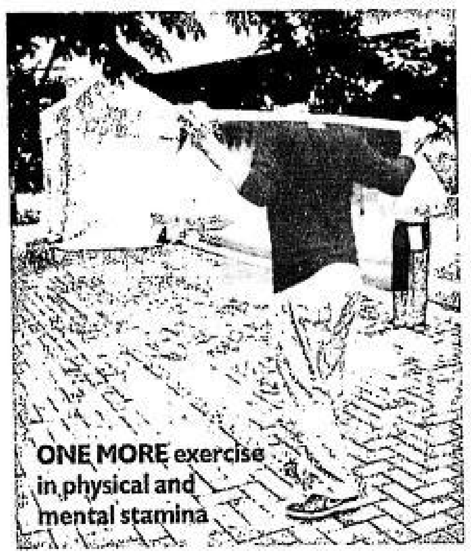
Crucial items

Phase 2 of the investigation required the contestants to visit 10 stations, each of which provided a clue once a challenge was accomplished. The teams needed to put each clue in a brown envelope and submit it to the race marshals.

A true crime-scene investigator knows that the first thing to do at a crime scene is examine the place. For the challenge, the scene was located at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall backstage. Cordoned off by a police line, the scene was untouched and the teams had to correctly identify five items crucial to the investigation.

They then had to perform challenges related to the last five people seen within the vicinity of the crime: a security guard, a janitor, a CSI AXN staff member, a pretty girl and a regular guy.

To receive a video recording of the guard's last radio transmission, teams had to shoot a paper target with a pellet gun. To find out the identity of another suspect, teams had to sort through a trash bin to find a photo of the janitor arguing with a suspect: a CSI AXN staff member. To get the full name and the designation of the CSI AXN staff, contestants had to alphabetize a stack of biodata according to surname. To receive hair samples found on the bag, the duos had to match the correct lipstick shade with the lipstick mark found on a cup placed on the table where the bag was seen. And to determine the owner of the hair sample, teams had to use a microscope to inspect hair samples taken from the various people questioned.



ONE MORE exercise in physical and mental stamina

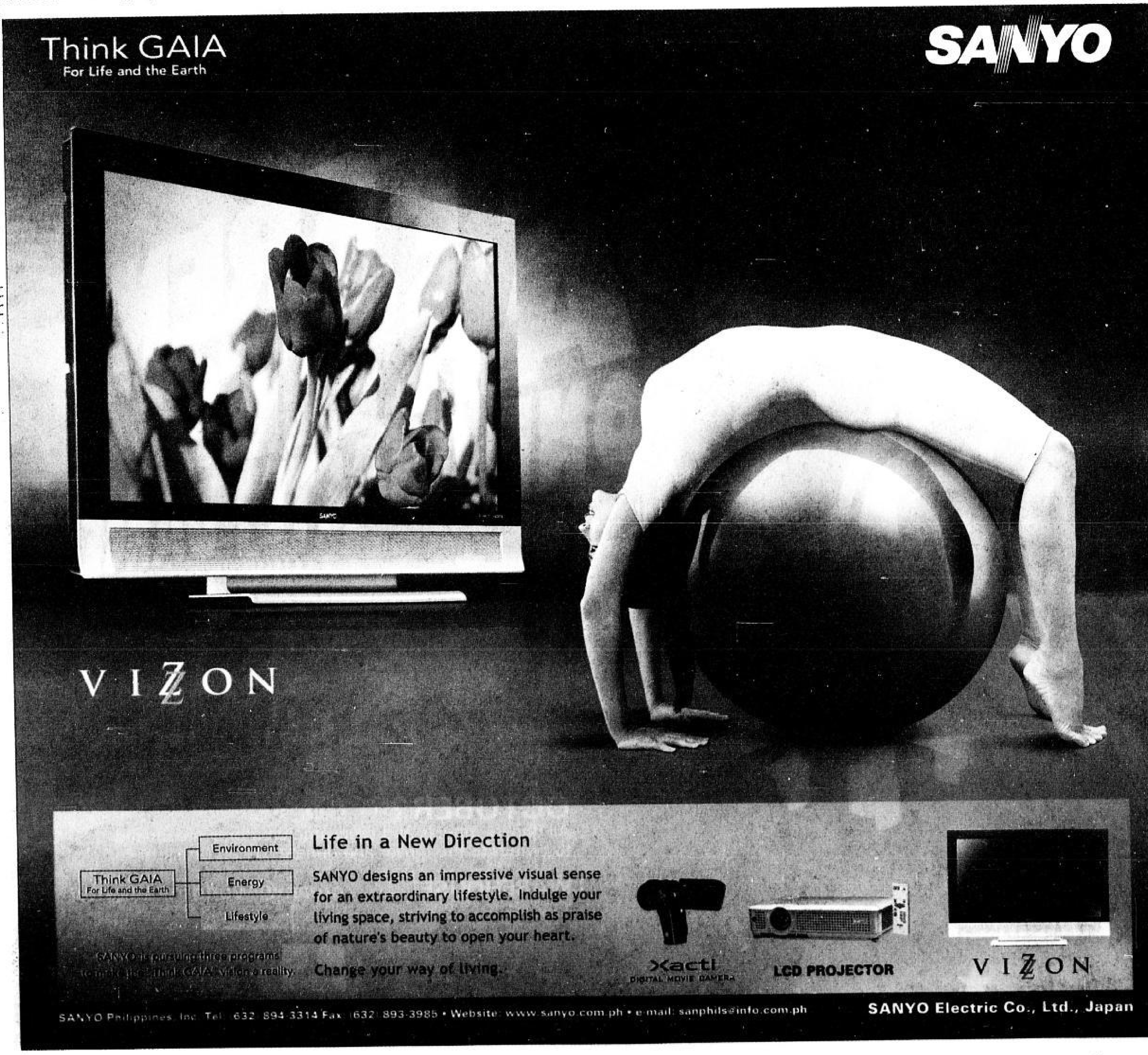
The last remaining challenges proved to be the toughest and most crucial for the competing teams.

Over at the Samsung station on the second floor corridor of the mall, teams were able to examine the missing item—a Samsung U600—by taking pictures of glow-in-the-dark stamps inside a dark room using the phone and its built-in flash system. After that, the contestants headed to the Axe Vice station where they had to single out a perpetrator among three naughty girls.

Finally, at the MOA station, teams also had the last chance to interrogate the five suspects before going to the very last station where all the collected evidence were pieced together to determine the real perpetrator.

So just who was the guilty one? The random guy, who was actually the real owner of the Samsung U600. He was

DETECTIVES/D2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ENTERTAINMENT

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DID YOU KNOW...

Pitts house-hunting

MADRID—Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are looking for a house in Europe so their four children and future offspring can have a "broad vision of the world." The actor said in a interview published Sunday: "While we are very nomadic, we would like to have a base in Europe. Spain, Italy and France have lots of quality of life and that is healthy." *AFP*

More rock 'n' roll via new RJ station

By Pocholo Concepcion

RAMON JACINTO WANTS TO SHAKE UP the airwaves with more rock 'n' roll.

For the past few months, Jacinto's latest venture, a new station called Underground Radio (UR), has been on test broadcast on 105.9 FM. It's being formally launched tonight with a party featuring several local bands at the RJ Bar on Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati.

This is good news, especially to former listeners of The Rock of Manila (RJ-AM) and The Source (RJ-FM before Edsa I), who find the current programming on RJ 100.3 too oldies-oriented and maybe a bit confused because it also plays mainstream pop ballads and disco.

The plugs on UR say it will focus on three branches of the wide rock 'n' roll tree: Classic, modern and Pinoy.

Classic rock, mostly from the late 1960s to the '80s, refers to the great album-oriented stuff from pre-Edsa I RJ. Modern rock is punk and new wave, plus maybe some hot new bands.

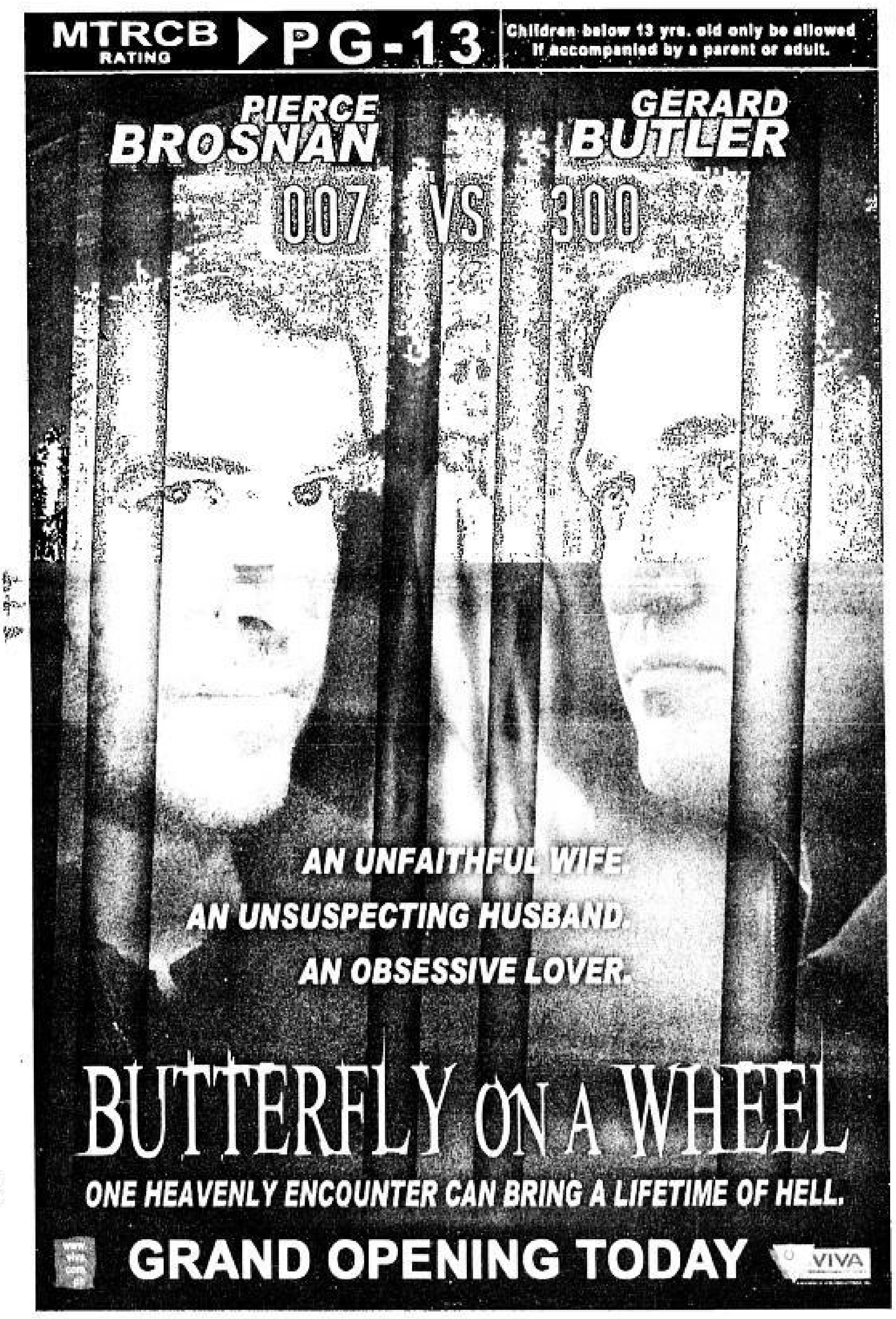
One sure thing

Pinoy rock, of course, translates to one sure thing: Local recordings not fortunate enough to get airplay elsewhere will be included, not only on UR's regular play list, but on the pioneering "Pinoy Rock & Rhythm" show, which has likewise been revived.

This show, incidentally, still has Howlin' Dave as host. It airs Sundays, 12 noon to 4

MORE/ E3

UR staff (from left): Jaton Zulueta, Ramon Jacinto II, Ramon Jacinto, Kris Isaac, Niki Flojo and Yagi Olaguera



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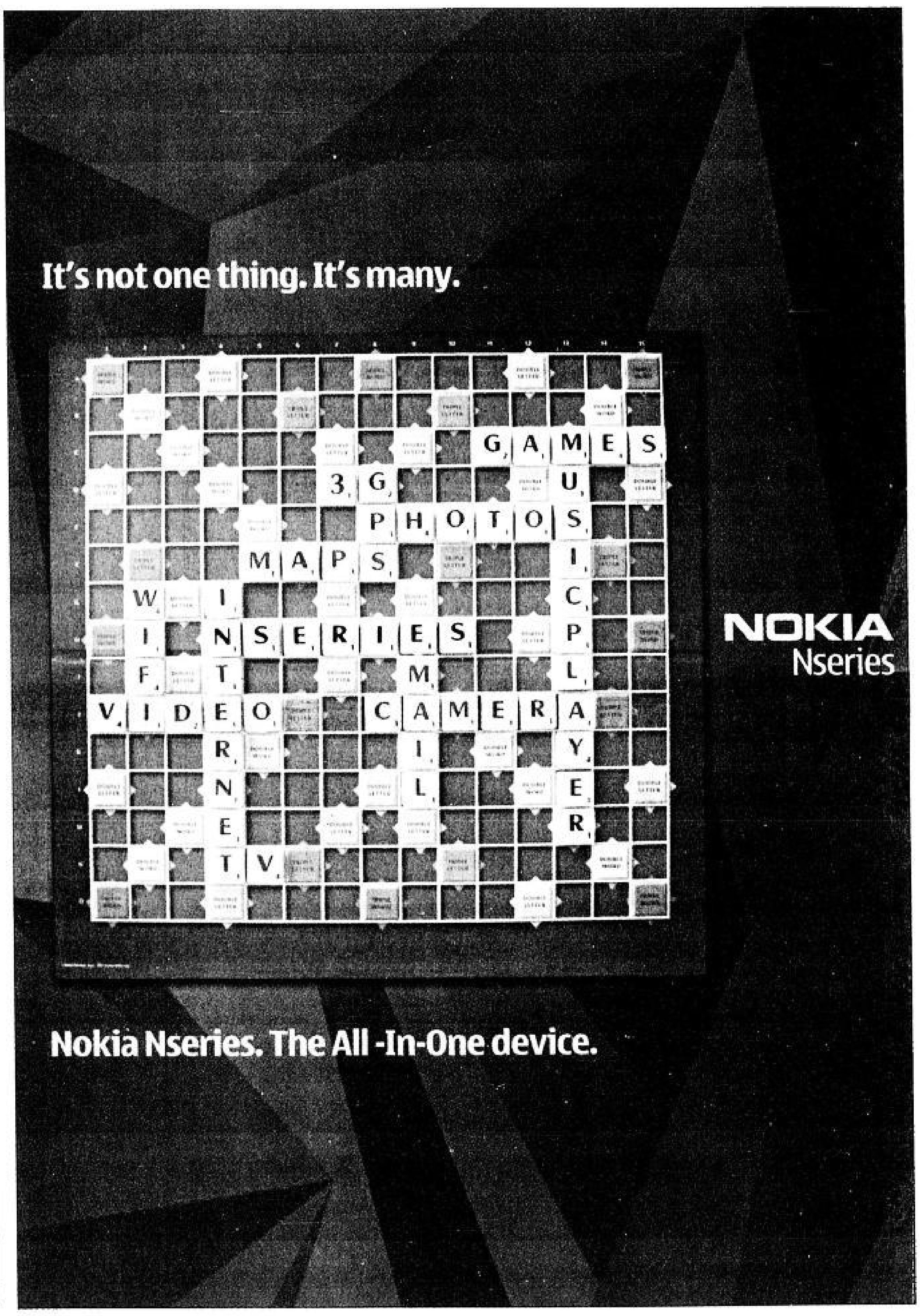

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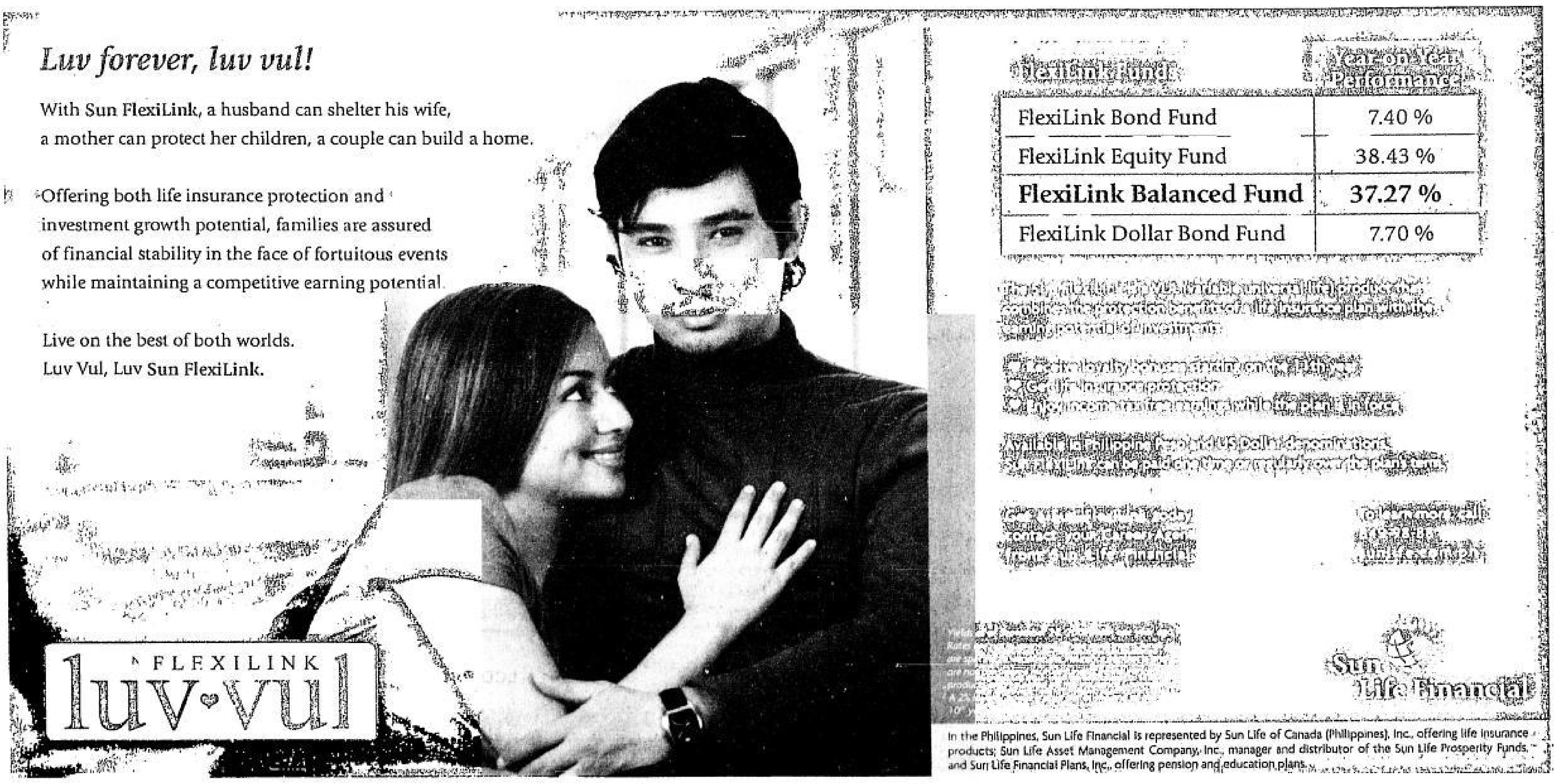

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7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
8 iMANILA PRIDE FEST
9 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
10 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

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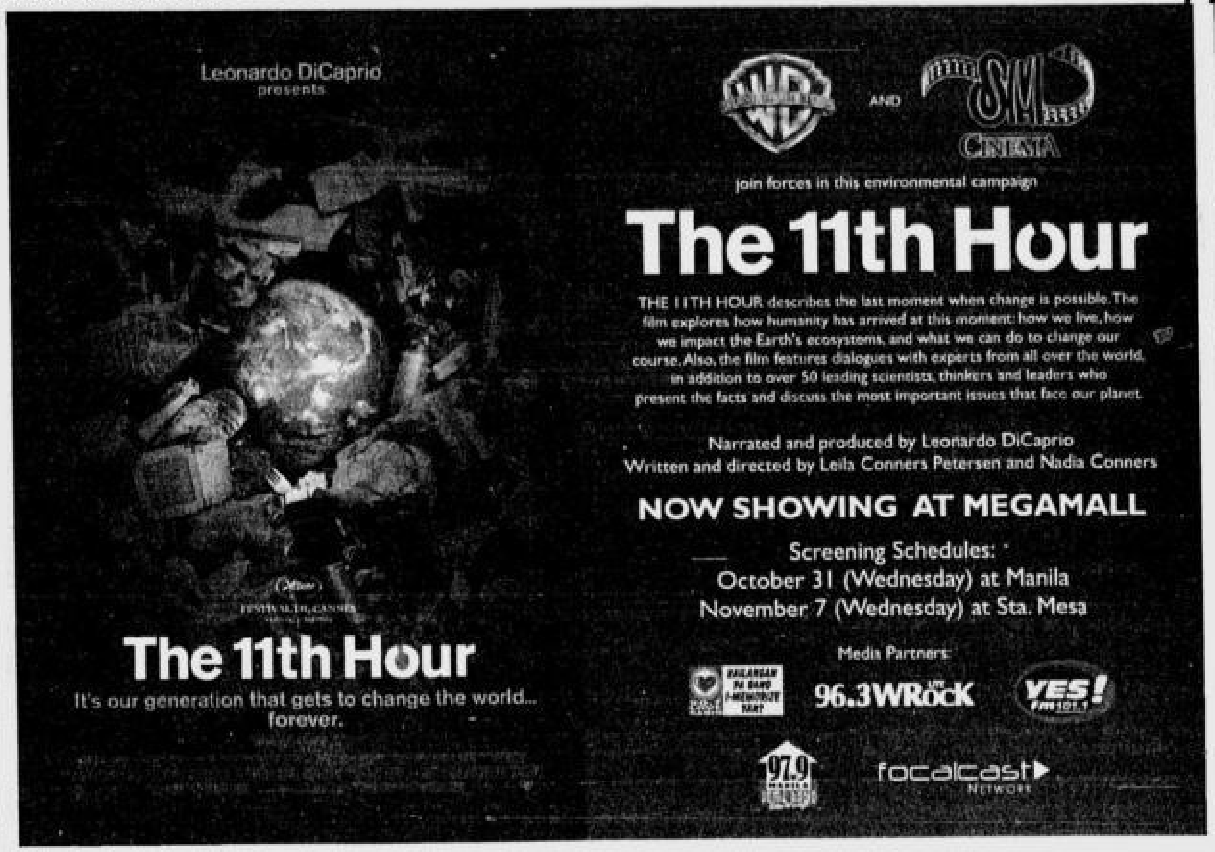
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7 STARDUST
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1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 11TH HOUR
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 RENDITION
6 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
9 STARDUST
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 UNREST
12 ROGUE ASSASSIN

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1 RENDITION
2 MR. WOODCOCK
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 STARDUST
7 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 KUNG FU FIGHTER
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11 RETRIBUTION
12 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 RENDITION
6 KUNG FU FIGHTER
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 STARDUST
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 UNREST
4 RENDITION
5 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 RENDITION
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 UNREST
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
7 STARDUST
8 HIGHLANDER V
9 RETRIBUTION

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1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

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1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 RENDITION
6 RESERVED
7 STARDUST
8 HIGHLANDER V
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11 RETRIBUTION
12 UNREST

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1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RETRIBUTION
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 NO RESERVATIONS

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1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
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3 MR. WOODCOCK
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2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 BUTTERFLY ON WHEEL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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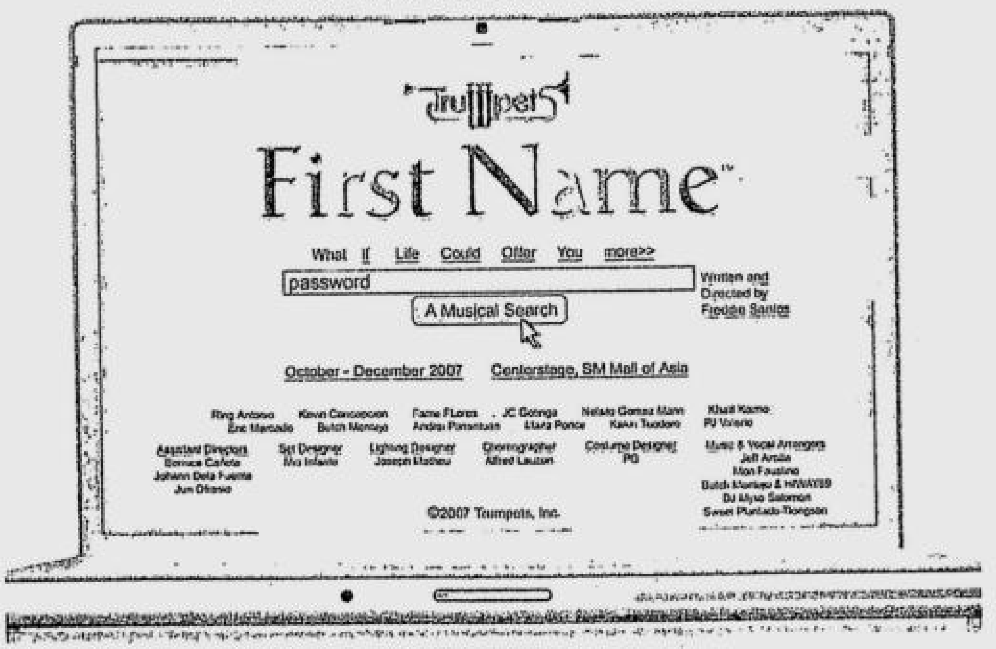

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Assistant Directors Bernice Cañete, Johann Dela Fuente, Jun Obisso
Set Designer Mio Infante
Lighting Designer Joseph Matheu
Choreographer Alfred Lauzon
Costume Designer PG
Music & Vocal Arrangers Jeff Arcilla, Mon Faustino, Butch Monteyo & HIWAY69, DJ Alyso Salomon, Sweet Plantado-Tiongson

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4 RETRIBUTION
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8 RENDITION

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1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 STARDUST
4 RETRIBUTION
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 EVENING

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1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 EVENING

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE HOST

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1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RETRIBUTION
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 EVENING
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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1 EVENING
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 DECEMBER BOYS

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1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 SHOOT EM' UP

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1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 HIGHLANDER V
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2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

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2 BUTTERFLY ON WHEEL
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 STARDUST

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3 EVENING
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5 STARDUST
6 DECEMBER BOYS
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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1 STARDUST
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 BUTTERFLY ON WHEEL
5 RETRIBUTION
6 EVENING
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

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2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 STARDUST

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Lea Salonga remains grounded, Zsa Zsa Padilla does a balancing act

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

HERE ARE EXCERPTS OF **LEA SALONGA'S** latest blog (http://bigsis222.multiply.com/journal/item/92 dated Oct. 19) which she allowed me to print. For an icon like her to still feel the onslaught of "blah days" only goes to show that she's not full of herself.

Even if she's already way up there, she remains grounded. And that makes her all the more worthy of the accolades. May Lea's blog remind you that there are rewards for staying when you would rather leave.

Getting burned

As much as I love my job, there are things about the industry that make me want to quit. Over the last months, the things I heard, saw or experienced through the people I care about infuriate me to the point of tears. It makes me question human nature and reel in shock over what the powers-that-be are capable of.

I thought that after 30 years, things like that wouldn't shock me anymore, that I'd be able to just shrug my shoulders and say, "That's show biz!" However, there are still things that get to me. Especially when they happen to people who don't deserve such treatment.

I shouldn't be surprised. I've seen understudies stripped of their duty … principals fired after two months of performing their parts … understudies' performances taken from them after they were promised a particular show … an offer made, then taken back 24 hours later … leaves of absence granted to some cast members and not to others … an actor told that because of his particular look, type or stature, he won't go on often for the part he covers.

I've heard racist comments from company managers … backbiting among company members …

Chances are, I'll see more crap as I go on but chances are, they won't stop me from doing what I love most.

Zsa Zsa's blog

Next comes **Zsa Zsa Padilla's** blog (http://zsazsapadilla.multiply.com/journal/item/29) journal dated Oct. 8 which she let me share with you. It shows that beneath all the glitz, Zsa is just like any working mom who has a tough balancing act to do day after day. She's truly one superwoMOM!

Finding courage

As some of you may know, my daughter, **Nicole**—or Coco, as people fondly call her—is back in Melbourne for her studies. The first time she was away, it took a month before I could go inside her room. It was hard leaving her to be on her own. But knowing how much she's grown independently, I can't help but smile and feel happy for her. I am proud of all my children, that God gave me three beautiful, brilliant ones I can call my friends.

Nicole borrowed my iPod plug and she forgot to give it back. When I asked her about it before she left Saturday, she told me that she left it in her room. I've been putting off plans of going inside her room but I figured I would need to connect my iPod to my computer soon enough so I prayed for courage before going in. I've been secretly crying for a few days before she left and I know my family has been, too. We miss her, but knowing she'll be home every two months makes things a little easier.

We always worry about what the future has in store for us and for people we love the most, especially our children. I'm sure most working Moms feel the same way, when the time we put in to be with our families is never enough.

And yet, we never give up. We strive harder to be closer to our children, making sure not to commit the same mistakes our parents had in raising us. And making sure we instill in our children the good ones we learned from our parents.

More. . .

From page E1

p.m. One recent episode had the veteran rock jock interviewing Dominic "Papadom" Gamboa of Tropical Depression, who brought with him some rarely heard local reggae recordings, like Popong Landero's cover of Asin's "Himig ng Pag-Ibig," Noel Cabangon's "Panawenen," Cocojam's "Lakambini," and even Florante's "Pawis at Tubig." Gamboa's own material, "Paraisong Pinangako," his version of Grupong Pendong's "Bagyo, Bagyo," and two songs from his stints with the Skavengers ("Hoy Juan") and Lokal Brown were played as well.

A cursory tune-in to UR in the mornings has revealed pleasant surprises. A blues number by Led Zeppelin was a reminder of this British band's legacy. (A forthcoming one-night reunion on Nov. 26 in London, with the late John Bonham's son Jason on drums, reportedly had 20 million fans trying to buy tickets for a venue that holds only about 20,000!)

UR's nighttime music was even better. "London Calling" by The Clash was being played as we wrote.

However, some of UR's daytime DJs tend to mess up their spiels. In one instance, Thin Lizzy, a female jock, sounded rattled and was blabbering. Another female DJ lacked the accurate information on George Harrison's "Concert for Bangladesh" album.

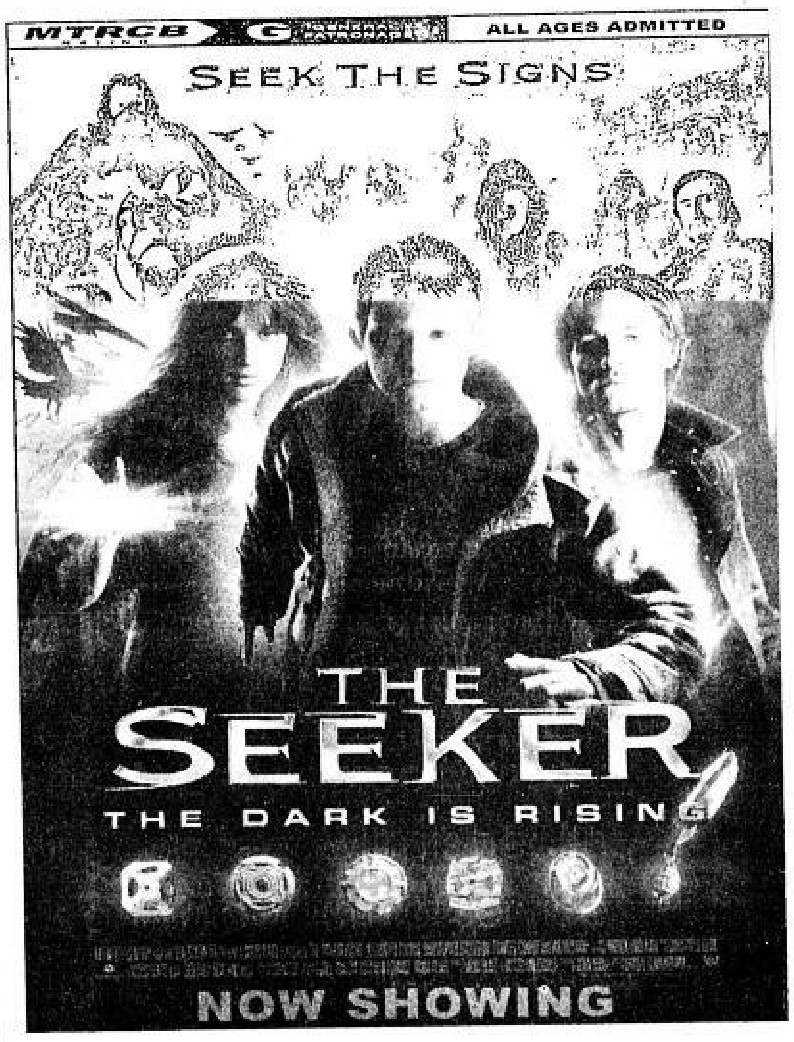
Apparently the young on-air staff has a lot of research work to do. This is where Howlin' Dave and The Mole (another veteran from The Rock of Manila days who's reportedly back) would be truly helpful.

And if UR wishes to really stand out, INQUIRER Entertainment suggests its jocks come up with a show better than "Pirate Satellite" (Saturdays, 9 to 11 p.m. on NU 107)—by far the most interesting and unique rock radio program currently heard in the city. But that's another story.

OPENS TODAY
WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM...
COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!

SOMEONE YOU LOVE JUST DISAPPEARED.
NOBODY IS TELLING THE TRUTH.
JAKE GYLLENHAAL REESE WITHERSPOON
RENDITION

MTRCB G ALL AGES ADMITTED



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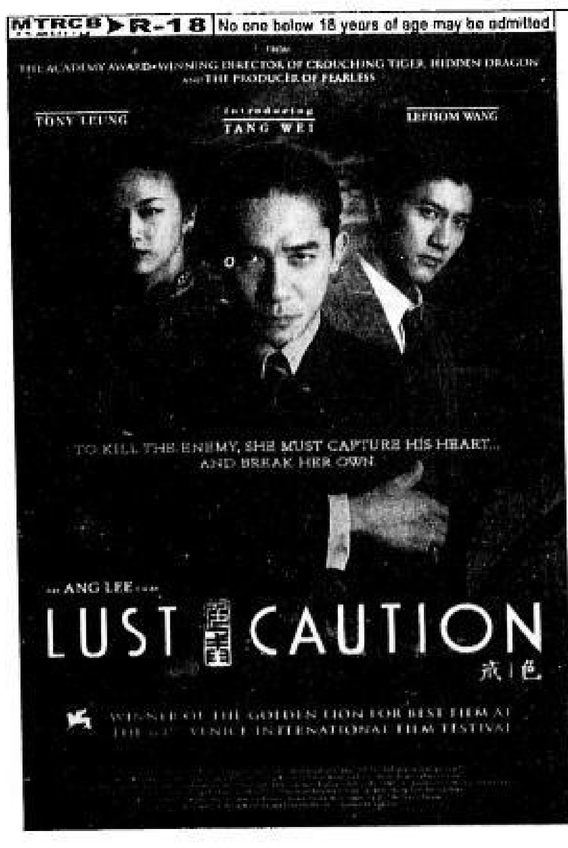
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A startling, erotic espionage thriller to be shown
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The film is about a young secret agent (Tang Wei) who was assigned to seduce a high-ranking intelligence official (Tony Leung) of the puppet government in WWII Shanghai. As she plunged deeper into the dangerous game of lust, betrayal and espionage, she slowly realized that her relationship with her prey had evolved into something she did not expect.

"A sumptuous, masterful piece of cinema... The torrid, full nudity scenes... set the screen ablaze."
Ruben Nepales, Philippine Daily Inquirer

"a tragic melodrama... This time love is a performance, a trap... an illusion."
Dennis Lim, New York Times

SPECIAL SCREENINGS STARTING OCT. 26
ONLY AT SELECTED THEATERS

DGPI, APT mount new digital film fest

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE DIRECTORS' GUILD OF the Philippines Inc. (DGPI) has teamed up with Antonio Tuviera's APT Entertainment in mounting a digital film festival set in the first quarter of 2008.

The project was designed "to help the movie industry," according to Mel Chionglo, DGPI treasurer.

"From 200 films a year, the industry is down to barely 50, and that includes independent films," Chionglo told INQUIRER Entertainment. "The DGPI wants to contribute to the production of more movies."

The idea, Chionglo said, is to come up with "director-driven films with an eye for wider commercial release."

"We are calling the festival Directors' Cut," said Soxie Topacio, DGPI vice president, adding that part of the proceeds will go to the Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Pelikulang Pilipino scholarship fund.

"The topics and treatment would definitely be out of the box, but the films should also be audience-friendly," explained DGPI board member Joel Lamangan.

Lamangan said the DGPI looked for a liberal, progressive partner and found it in Antonio Tuviera, producer of the GMA 7 noontime show "Eat Bulaga."

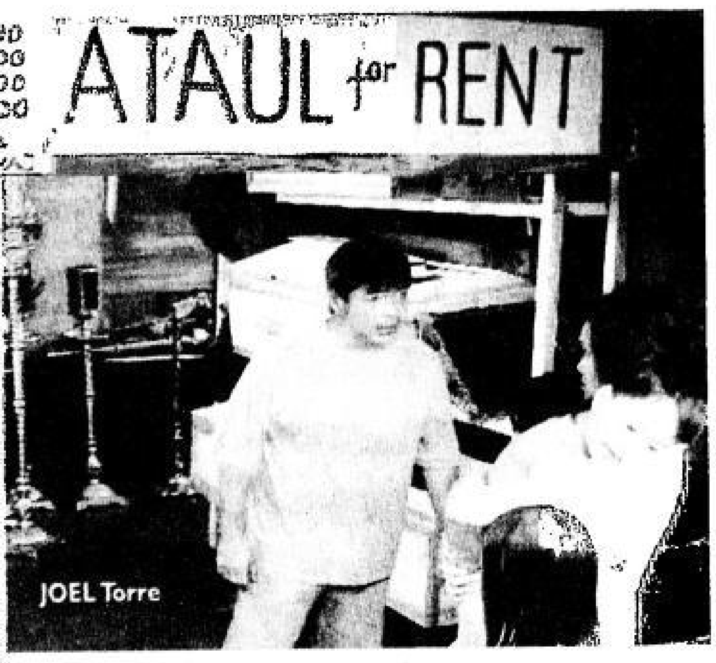
Chionglo related that seven projects will be chosen from a screenplay competition open to DGPI's 50 members.

A DGPI member is required to submit an entry (a detailed sequence treatment), written by him or by another scriptwriter.

Deadline is Oct. 31. The festival is set at the SM Cinemas in March or April 2008.

A total of P3 million will be awarded to each filmmaker, said Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil, festival committee member.

The festival committee is headed by DGPI president Tony Reyes.



JOEL Torre

'Ataul' goes to the American film mart

By Marinel R. Cruz

NEAL TAN'S "ATAUL FOR Rent," a social satire on the lives of slum dwellers, will be shown during the eight-day American Film Market in Santa Monica, California next month.

The American Film Market (AFM) is the premiere global marketplace where Hollywood's decision-makers and trendsetters gather under one roof, according to its website www.ifta-onlie.org.

Unitel Pictures, which will put up a booth at the AFM, is helping "Ataul" producer Anthony Gedang (Artiste Entertainment Works International Inc.) seal a distribution deal, said Christine Dayrit, chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines Festival Committee.

Dayrit said she would also recommend that the FDCP subsidize the movie's trip to the 31st Cairo International Film Festival in Egypt, where it has been invited to compete.

"Ataul" revolves around the lives of a couple (Joel Torre and Jaclyn Jose) who owns a funeral parlor that rents out coffins.

In September, the film received an A rating from the Cinema Evaluation Board on account of "the tour-de-force performance by the actors—down to the rats," which entitled it to a 100-percent tax rebate.

"Ataul" is the first film to be invited to compete at the Cairo IFF since "The Flor Contemplacion Story" was shown there in 1995.

"Ataul" is set to open in local theaters Nov. 8.

OPENING TODAY

Rendition

Stars Reese Witherspoon, Meryl Streep, Jake Gyllenhaal, Alan Arkin

Directed by Gavin Hood

An American housewife (Witherspoon) searches for her Egyptian husband who disappears after he is suspected of being a terrorist by the CIA. Peter Travers of Rolling Stone says: "Despite the best intentions, [it's] a simplistic, skin-deep attempt." A.O. Scott of New York Times describes it as a "well-meaning, honorable movie .... thoughtful." Rex Reed of New York Observer concurs: "[It's] powerful, shocking, mandatory."

Unrest

Stars Corri English, Scot Davis, Joshua Alba, Marisa Petroro

Directed by Jason Todd Ipson

A young medical student (English) investigates mysterious deaths at a hospital and senses a supernatural presence in the morgue. Peter Brown of iF magazine comments that this "straight-to-video" thriller is "not bad, just a worthy rental." DreadCentral.com thinks it "works so well [because] the director actually attended medical school." Bill Gibron of DVDVerdict.com rants that "it's unbelievably superficial and silly."

Butterfly on a Wheel

Stars Pierce Brosnan, Maria Bello, Gerard Butler, Emma Karwandy

Directed by Mike Barker

Also titled "Shattered," this crime drama follows the mental breakdown of a happy couple (Bello and Butler), terrorized by their daughter's kidnapper (Brosnan). Virtualme.com says "[Bello's] performance and the surprise twist at the end are the only things that make this movie even remotely worth watching." From an IMDb.com reviewer: "Basically tricky and shallow at the core."

FEEDBACK

TV show offensive to Mormons

FROM BRYCE HAYES (bryceandchris@yahoo.com) Valle Verde 2, Pasig:

The article "If it's Monday, it's time for 'Big Love'" (Monday, Oct. 22) contains very misleading statements offensive to Mormons—a nickname for individuals belonging to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It's a church with a significant Filipino membership. The article states the lead character is a polygamist and a Mormon. Polygamy, the practice of marrying and supporting multiple wives, was abandoned as a Mormon practice in the 1800s. Additionally, it is illegal to engage in this practice in the United States. Ask any member of the church and you will learn it is not possible to be a Mormon and a polygamist. Overall, this is a television show, relying on scandal and sensationalism to attract viewers. This show is not about revealing truth, it is about generating enough viewers to make a profit. In addition, only one side of the argument is presented, misrepresenting a religion that does a tremendous amount of good in the world. Remember how Catholics felt about the Da Vinci Code? The same unfortunate methods are at play here.

***

The series is described as an "offbeat contemporary drama," produced by Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman for HBO in the US.

We do not judge its merits outside of cinematic value. Even so, we did make the distinction, "a Mormon and a polygamist," precisely because we didn't think the terms were interchangeable, or that the first term defined the second. Otherwise, we might have said, "a Mormon, and therefore a polygamist." The press kit for the series mentions "polygamist" more than once—the very reason we called the attention of Ms. Karen Lai of HBO Asia during the recent press conference here in Manila. Her response was in the story. *Ed.*

AT THE CINEMAS

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GLORIETTA 1	1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	2 RENDITION	3 THE UNREST	4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT			
GLORIETTA 4	1 STARDUST	2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	3 THX BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MR. WOODCOCK	5 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER	6 RENDITION	7 KNOCKED UP
GREENBELT 1	1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	2 RENDITION					
GREENBELT 3	1 THX BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX RENDITION GUARANTEED SEATS	3 KNOCKED UP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS	5 STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX RENDITION	2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	3 STARDUST	4 THE 11TH HOUR	5 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DECEMBER BOYS	2 SHOOT 'EM UP	3 EVENING	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RENDITION	2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	5 THE UNREST		
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	3 THE UNREST GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS	5 STARDUST	6 KNOCKED UP	7 THX RENDITION GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

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Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
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Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	Urban Beats: Superbands at Glorietta featuring Kastigo and Kjwa October 24; 6pm to 7;30pm; Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Trick or Treat at Greenbelt 3 Park October 25 to 28 and 31
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Automatic Center October 15 to 26; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Kiddo Halloween Event October 27; Activity Center and On Stage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Dancing Stage Supernova Challenge 2007 Grand Finals October 26; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Sesame Street Party October 28; Activity Center

FRIGHT FEST

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SCREENING TIME	OCTOBER 26 (Friday)	OCTOBER 27 (Saturday)	OCTOBER 28 (Sunday)	OCTOBER 29 (Monday)	OCTOBER 30 (Tuesday)	OCTOBER 31 (Wednesday)
12:30	Tremors 4	John Carpenter's Village of the Damned	Alfred Hitchcock: The Birds	Wes Craven's The Serpent & The Rainbow	Dead Silence	Alfred Hitchcock: The Man Who Knew Too much
3:00	Dead Silence	John Carpenter's The Thing	Alfred Hitchcock: Rear Window	Wes Craven's Vampire in Brooklyn	Tremors 4	Alfred Hitchcock: The Shadow of a Doubt
5:30	Tremors 4	John Carpenter's Village of the Dammed	Alfred Hitchcock: The Birds	Wes Craven's The Serpent & The Rainbow	Dead Silence	Alfred Hitchcock: The Man Who Knew Too much
8:00	Dead Silence	John Carpenter's The Thing	Alfred Hitchcock: Rear Window	Wes Craven's Vampire in Brooklyn	Tremors 4	Alfred Hitchcock: The Shadow of a Doubt
10:30	Tremors 4	John Carpenter's Village of the Dammed	Alfred Hitchcock: The Birds	Wes Craven's The Serpent & The Rainbow	Dead Silence	Alfred Hitchcock: The Man Who Knew Too much

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glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

www.inquirer.net/entertainment

A SHAOLIN monk presents the "Chinese Martial Arts Global Influence Grand Prize" to Jackie Chan during a ceremony in Shenzhen last week. REUTERS

'If you're going through hell, keep going'

By the Inquirer and Inquirer.net Entertainment Staff

RUSHES

LONDON—FORMER BEATLE PAUL McCartney has likened his bitter divorce battle with Heather Mills to "going through hell." In an interview in Britain's Radio Times magazine that goes on sale this week, the 65-year-old was asked if he regretted meeting and marrying Mills, 39, McCartney said: "Going through a divorce is a very painful thing. As Winston Churchill once said, 'If you're going through hell, keep going!'" *Reuters*

Don't bow, please

HONG KONG—Jackie Chan to aspiring action stars: Don't bow to me. Chan said in a blog entry on his official website Sunday that he's not a fan of the way disciples greet their masters in kung fu movies by grasping a clenched fist in a prayer-like gesture, then bowing their heads. He called the greeting "old-fashioned and definitely not what I'm looking for." *AP*

Look forward to...

Oscar winner Helen Mirren is to star in a film about a married couple running a brothel, with the veteran British actress' husband Taylor Hackford directing. And Oscar nominee Naomi Watts is to star in a remake of Alfred Hitchock's classic 1963 thriller, "The Birds," based on a story by the novelist Daphne du Maurier. *AFP*

Tributes galore

- Sophia Loren cried Saturday, recalling a lifetime of success for a girl who grew up in a gritty Neapolitan suburb, as the city of Rome honored the actress for her "beauty and elegance."

"Lady History was generous to the girl from Pozzuoli, and I thank her together with all of you," Loren, 73, said, her voice breaking with sobs, at the awards ceremony in Rome's City Hall.

- In New York, Spanish actor Javier Bardem and Indian director Mira Nair will be honored at the 17th annual Gotham Awards on Nov. 27 for their contributions to independent cinema. The Gotham Awards celebrate independent movies and films set in NY.

Film critic Roger Ebert will also be honored with a Gotham tribute for a career of championing independent cinema. Ebert, 65, is only the second film critic to receive the tribute. In 1995, Gotham honored Pauline Kael.

- Meryl Streep is about to collect yet another honor, this one from the Film Society of Lincoln Center. The 58-year-old actress will be honored April 14, 2008 at Lincoln Center for the Film Society's 35th annual Gala Tribute.

"While her luminous on-screen presence is never less than dazzling, you always feel her keen intelligence and wit, her extraordinary level of insight," Gala Tribute director Wendy Keys said in a statement. *AP*

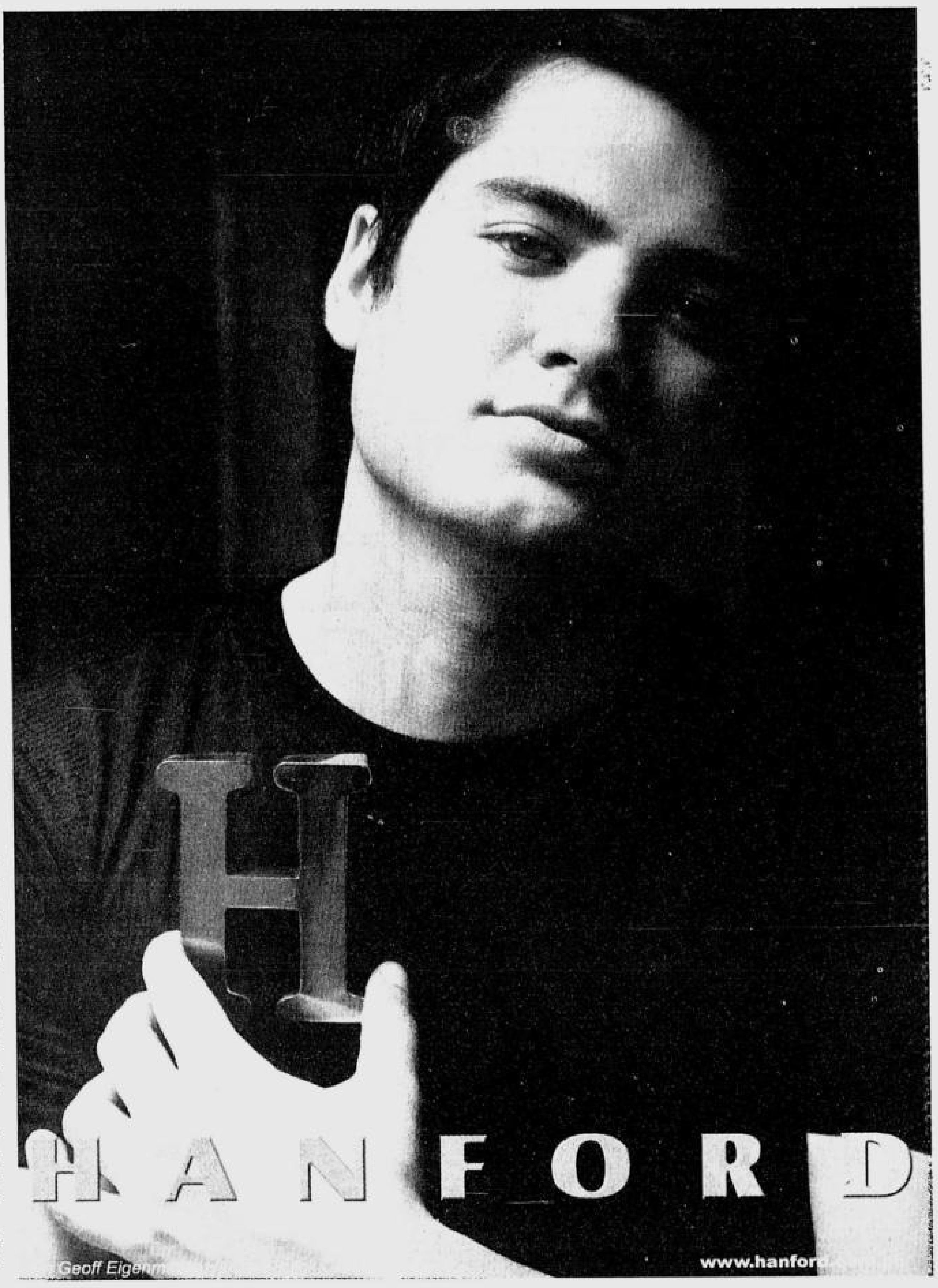
Outing Dumbledore

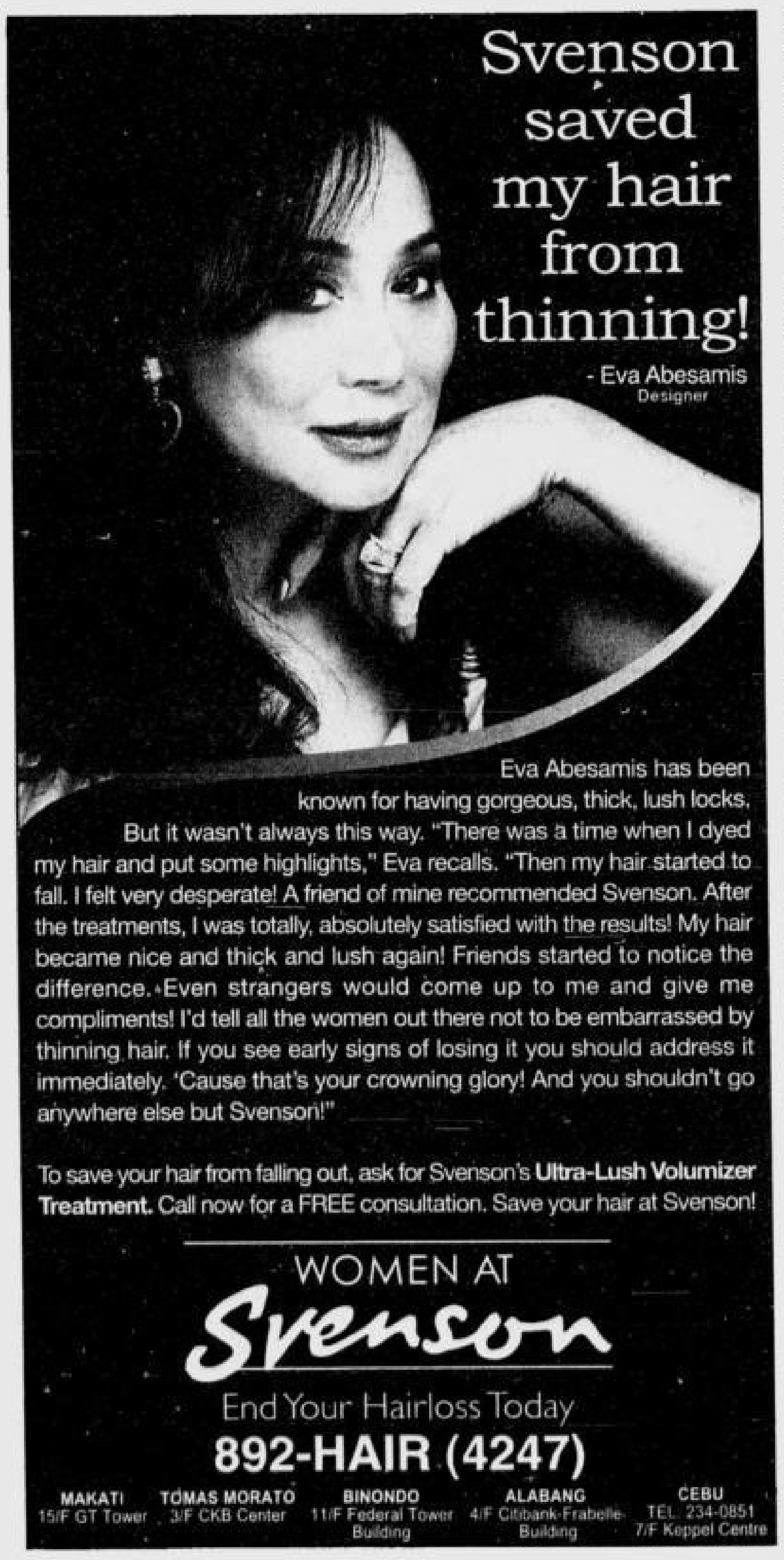
Harry Potter author JK Rowling to fans (via TheLeakyCauldron.org website) on "outing" Dumbledore: "If I'd known it would make you so happy, I'd have announced it years ago!" *AFP*

No to torture

Jake Gyllenhall, star of "Rendition," on torture: "You can see in the film that [tor-

IF YOU'RE/ F4





Svenson saved my hair from thinning!
- Eva Abesamis
Designer

Eva Abesamis has been known for having gorgeous, thick, lush locks. But it wasn't always this way. "There was a time when I dyed my hair and put some highlights," Eva recalls. "Then my hair started to fall. I felt very desperate! A friend of mine recommended Svenson. After the treatments, I was totally, absolutely satisfied with the results! My hair became nice and thick and lush again! Friends started to notice the difference. Even strangers would come up to me and give me compliments! I'd tell all the women out there not to be embarrassed by thinning hair. If you see early signs of losing it you should address it immediately. 'Cause that's your crowning glory! And you shouldn't go anywhere else but Svenson!"

To save your hair from falling out, ask for Svenson's **Ultra-Lush Volumizer Treatment.** Call now for a FREE consultation. Save your hair at Svenson!

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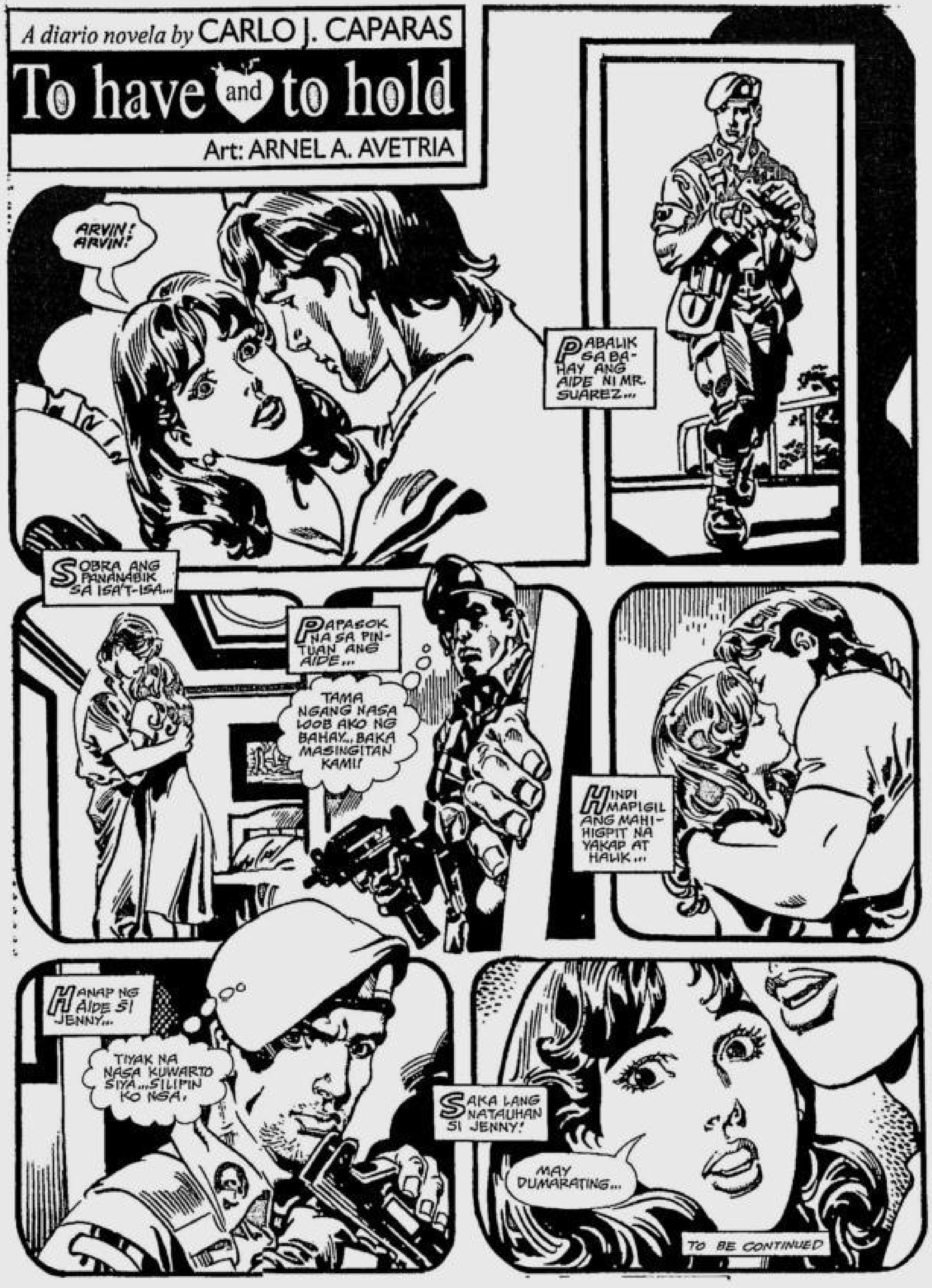
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

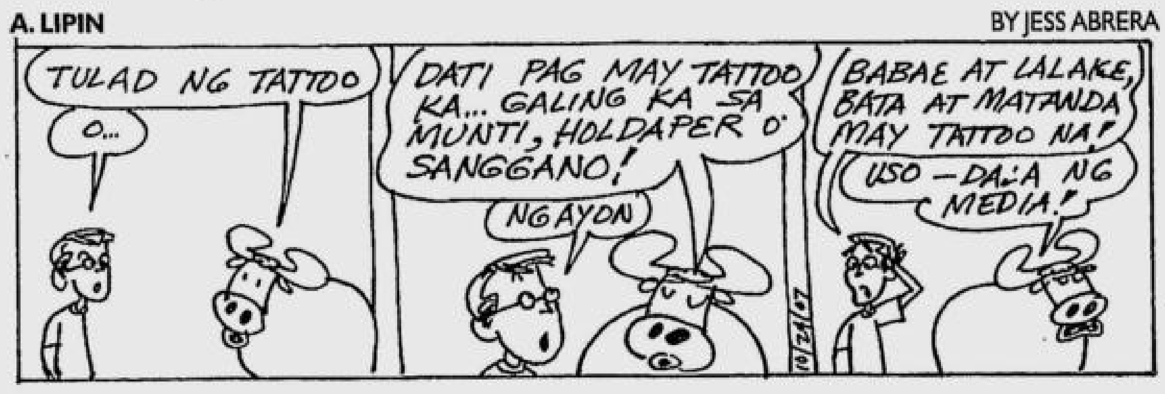
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


ARVIN! ARVIN!
PABALIK SA BAHAY ANG AIDE NI MR. SUAREZ...
SOBRA ANG PANANABIK SA ISA'T-ISA...
PAPASOK NA SA PINTUAN ANG AIDE...
TAMA NGANG NASA LOOB AKO NG BAHAY... BAKA MASINGITAN KAMI!
HINDI MAPIGIL ANG MAHIHIGPIT NA YAKAP AT HALIK...
HANAP NG AIDE SI JENNY...
TIYAK NA NASA KUWARTO SIYA... SILIPIN KO NGA.
SAKA LANG NATAUHAN SI JENNY!
MAY DUMARATING...
TO BE CONTINUED

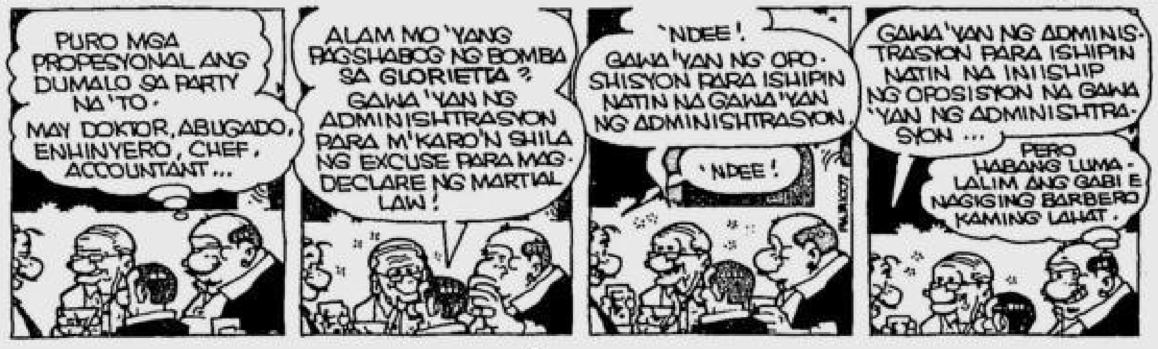
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TULAD NG TATTOO
O...
DATI PAG MAY TATTOO KA... GALING KA SA MUNTI, HOLDAPER O' SANGGANO!
NGAYON
BABAE AT LALAKE, BATA AT MATANDA MAY TATTOO NA!
USO—DA:A NG MEDIA!
10/24/07

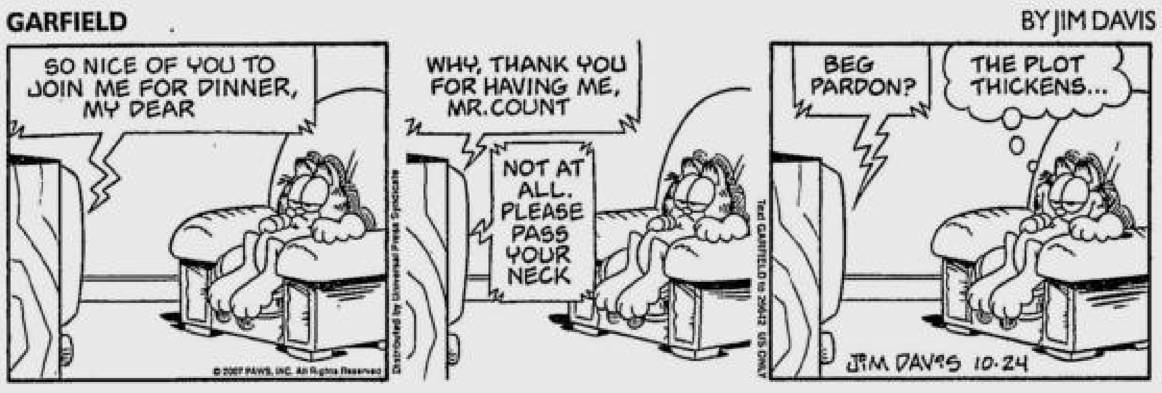
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PURO MGA PROPESYONAL ANG DUMALO SA PARTY NA 'TO.
MAY DOKTOR, ABUGADO, ENHINYERO, CHEF, ACCOUNTANT...
ALAM MO 'YANG PAGSHABOG NG BOMBA SA GLORIETTA ?
GAWA 'YAN NG ADMINISHTRASYON PARA M'KARO'N SHILA NG EXCUSE PARA MAG-DECLARE NG MARTIAL LAW!
'NDEE'.
GAWA 'YAN NG OPOSHISYON PARA ISHIPIN NATIN NA GAWA 'YAN NG ADMINISHTRASYON.
'NDEE!
GAWA 'YAN NG ADMINISTRASYON PARA ISHIPIN NATIN NA INIISHIP NG OPOSISYON NA GAWA 'YAN NG ADMINISHTRASYON ...
PERO HABANG LUMALALIM ANG GABI E NAGIGING BARBERO KAMING LAHAT.

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


SO NICE OF YOU TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER, MY DEAR
WHY, THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME, MR. COUNT
NOT AT ALL. PLEASE PASS YOUR NECK
BEG PARDON?
THE PLOT THICKENS...
JIM DAVIS 10-24
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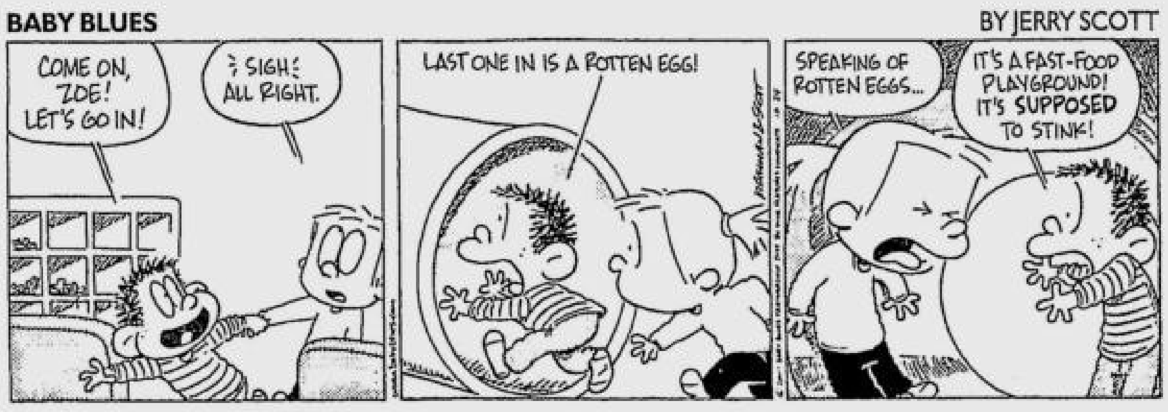
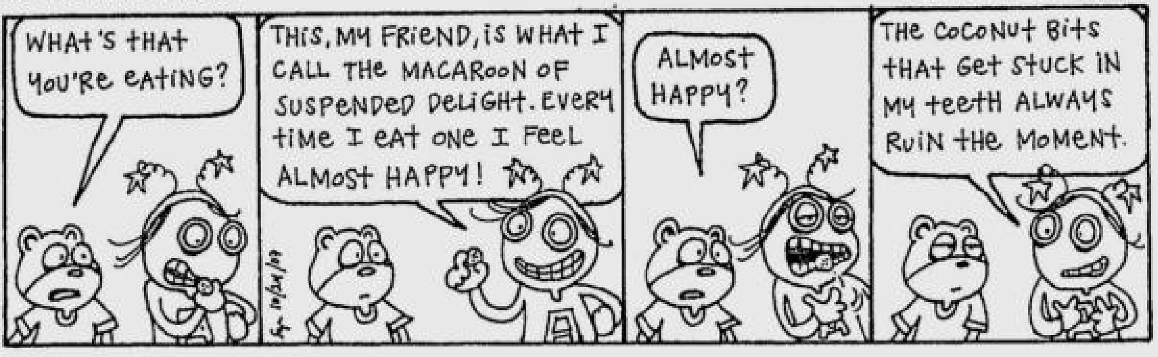
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


COME ON, ZOE! LET'S GO IN!
SIGH ALL RIGHT.
LAST ONE IN IS A ROTTEN EGG!
SPEAKING OF ROTTEN EGGS...
IT'S A FAST-FOOD PLAYGROUND! IT'S SUPPOSED TO STINK!

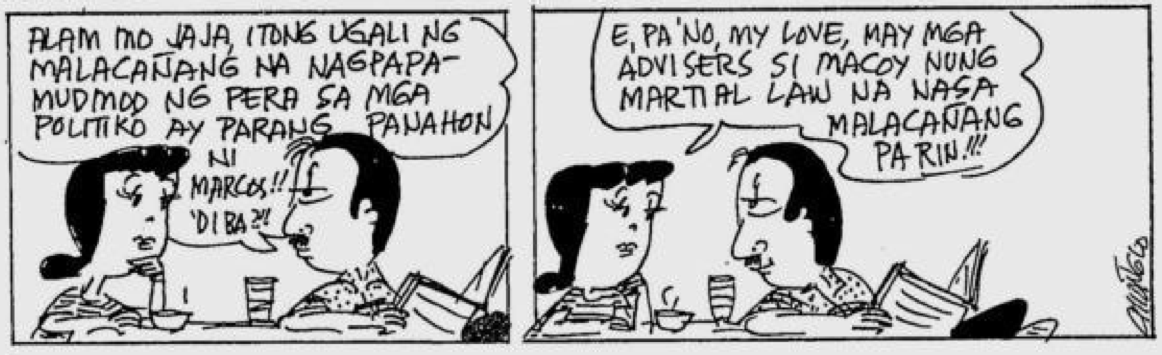
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE EATING?
THIS, MY FRIEND, IS WHAT I CALL THE MACAROON OF SUSPENDED DELIGHT. EVERY TIME I EAT ONE I FEEL ALMOST HAPPY!
ALMOST HAPPY?
THE COCONUT BITS THAT GET STUCK IN MY TEETH ALWAYS RUIN THE MOMENT.

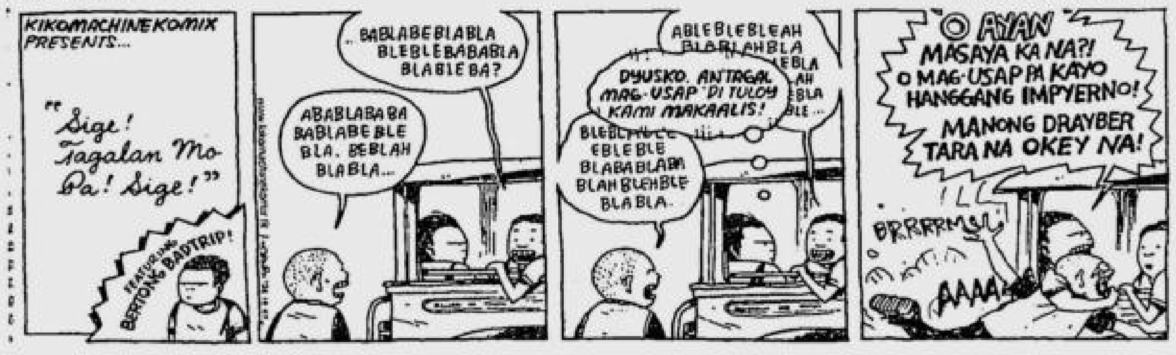
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO JAJA, ITONG UGALI NG MALACAÑANG NA NAGPAPAMUDMOD NG PERA SA MGA POLITIKO AY PARANG PANAHON NI MARCOS!! 'DI BA?!
E, PA'NO, MY LOVE, MAY MGA ADVISERS SI MACOY NUNG MARTIAL LAW NA NASA MALACAÑANG PA RIN!!!

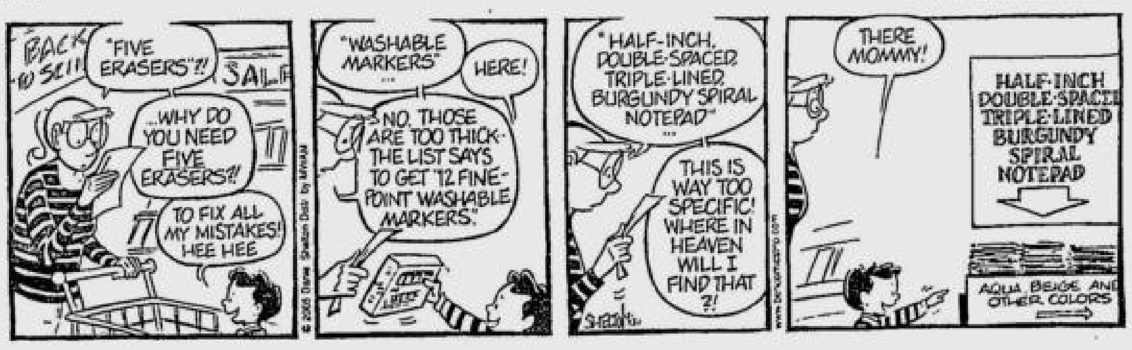
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS...
"Sige! Tagalan Mo Pa! Sige!"
FEATURING BERTONG BADTRIP!
BABLABEBLABLA BLEBLEBABABLA BLABLEBA?
ABABLABABA BABLABEBLE BLA. BEBLAH BLABLA...
ABLEBLEBLEAH BLABLAHBLA
DYUSKO. ANTAGAL MAG-USAP 'DI TULOY KAMI MAKAALIS!
BLEBLABLE EBLEBLE BLABABLABA BLAH BLEHBLE BLABLA.
O AYAN MASAYA KA NA?! O MAG-USAP PA KAYO HANGGANG IMPYERNO!
MANONG DRAYBER TARA NA OKEY NA!
BRRRRMM
AAAA

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


"FIVE ERASERS"?!
SAL
...WHY DO YOU NEED FIVE ERASERS?!
TO FIX ALL MY MISTAKES! HEE HEE
"WASHABLE MARKERS"
HERE!
NO. THOSE ARE TOO THICK. THE LIST SAYS TO GET '12 FINE-POINT WASHABLE MARKERS.'
"HALF-INCH, DOUBLE-SPACED TRIPLE-LINED BURGUNDY SPIRAL NOTEPAD"
THIS IS WAY TOO SPECIFIC! WHERE IN HEAVEN WILL I FIND THAT ?!
THERE MOMMY!
HALF-INCH DOUBLE-SPACED TRIPLE-LINED BURGUNDY SPIRAL NOTEPAD
AQUA, BEIGE AND OTHER COLORS
© 2005 Dana Shelton Dist. by NEA

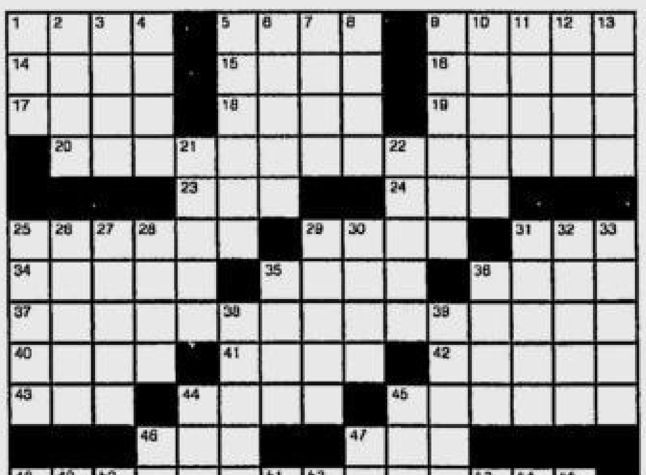
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 "Promised Land" author Abba
5 Talk incessantly
9 Passover feast
14 "__ Britannia"
15 Costa __
16 Wipe out
17 Baby powder additive
18 Inarticulate grunts
19 Tries out
20 Entry in Washington's day-planner?
23 Have dinner
24 Badminton barrier
25 Feudal farmer
29 Unmannerly
31 Amusement
34 Localities
35 Window section
36 Moon goddess
37 Entry in Churchhill's day-planner?
40 Latin 101 word
41 QED word
42 Soap substitute
43 Observe
44 Stage direction
45 Gaped
46 Simian
47 Grant's foe
48 Entry in Roosevelt's day-planner?
56 Geese in a group
57 Music of India
58 Composer Khachaturian
60 Spicy sauce
61 Robert of "The Sopranos"
62 Hindu deity
63 Kingsley film
64 Rendered fat
65 Biographer of Henry James

DOWN

1 Historic period
2 Tulip, e.g.
3 Baseball family name
4 __-do-well
5 Inhumanly cruel
6 Fire up
7 Belly problem
8 Shindig
9 Small sofa
10 Upright
11 Sprint
12 Noble family of Ferrara
13 Take a breather
21 Leavening agent
22 Peruvian range
25 Flower holders
26 Crop up
27 Have a feeling
28 Rice liquor
29 Morocco's capital
30 Individual entity
31 Violent anger
32 "__ Tom's Cabin"
33 Nude
35 Actress Gilpin
36 Tibetan monk
38 One casting spells
39 Paired
44 Word from a name
45 Alaska buyer
46 In flames
47 Cubist Fernand
48 Author of "The Nazarene"
49 Predatory shorebird
50 John or Deborah
51 Seed coat
52 "The Lion King" lion
53 Abate
54 Saharan
55 Bathe
59 __ de mer



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

10/24/07

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

P	L	U	S		S	U	B	S		L	I	A	R	S
V	E	N	T		C	R	O	C		E	R	N	I	E
C	I	A	O		A	S	I	A		M	O	O	S	E
		N	O	S	M	A	L	L	W	O	N	D	E	R
S	M	I	L	E				P	I	N		E	R	S
T	A	M		A	F	R	O		D	A	B			
A	N	I	S		E	O	N		O	D	I	U	M	S
L	I	T	T	L	E	D	I	D	W	E	K	N	O	W
K	A	Y	O	E	D		O	N	E		E	I	R	E
			P	A	L		N	A	R	C		N	E	D
I	N	S		R	O	W				P	A	S	S	E
N	O	T	I	N	T	H	E	L	E	A	S	T		
C	R	A	T	E		A	R	I	A		S	A	U	L
A	S	T	E	R		R	I	M	S		E	L	S	E
S	E	E	M	S		F	E	E	T		S	L	E	D

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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a hardworking perfectionist. You appear cavalier and easy-going; however, you take everything quite seriously. The word "casual" is not in your vocabulary. You love high drama. You quickly take control of any situation. You're often very dominant in your family. In the year ahead, you will learn something valuable if you give yourself time and space to do this.

Birthdate of: Kevin Kline, actor; B.D. Wong, actor; Zac Posen, designer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Because of the approach of tomorrow's Full Moon, you might feel increasing tension about money issues or something having to do with your personal possessions. Fear not—this will disappear in a few days.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Tomorrow's Full Moon is the only Full Moon in your sign all year. This could make dealings with partners and close friends a bit tense today. Consider this an opportunity to practice patience.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be patient with co-workers today. Everyone can feel the buildup of emotional tension before tomorrow's Full Moon. Try to cut somebody some slack.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Conversations with friends or members of groups might be strained today. Whatever you say seems to be rejected. Instead of arousing more opposition, wait a few days to suggest your ideas.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel torn between devoting time to your private life and your family versus devoting time to your career or your public world. This is the classic dilemma of a Full Moon. (You can't ignore family.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today and tomorrow are accident-prone days for your sign. Slow down. Be careful. Take your time when you're doing things. Think before you speak.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might be concerned with how to divide something or deal with somebody else's possessions. If you're perplexed, wait until the weekend to make your decisions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Tomorrow's Full Moon opposes your sign. That's why you might feel that people are opposing you today. Just be patient with them. A Full Moon lasts only 48 hours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't be worried about health concerns today or matters related to pets. Tension that provokes this will diminish very quickly in a few days.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be patient with children today. You might have to make some adjustments regarding social occasions or anything having to do with sports. It will all work out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You definitely will feel the demands of family and relatives today. You can't please all the people all the time. (Abe was right.) Just do what you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today and tomorrow are definitely accident-prone days for your sign. Slow down and take everything carefully. Don't push the river.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

		1	3	8	5	4		
	7						1	
4								
1								
8				9	3	5	6	4
9								7
6								8
	3						5	
		8	2	4	7	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/24

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	7	2	4	9	3	5	6	8
3	5	6	2	8	7	9	1	4
4	9	8	1	5	6	2	7	3
5	6	4	9	3	2	7	8	1
2	8	3	5	7	1	4	9	6
7	1	9	8	6	4	3	2	5
9	2	5	3	1	8	6	4	7
6	4	1	7	2	5	8	3	9
8	3	7	6	4	9	1	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/23

OPM, rock, jazz at Coors Light Retro Ball

VOGUE MANILA PRESENTS "THE 2007 Coors Light Retro Ball" tomorrow, 7 p.m. at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong. Expect lots of reminiscing and dancing as the iconic band Hotdog plays OPM and '70s favorites, Rockin' Revival interprets '50s and '60s hits, and the jazz group Brass Munkeys performs '40s jazz classics.

Tickets at P1,200 are inclusive of dinner and a chance to win raffle prizes.

Call Ticketnet at 911-5555 or Louie Arcilla at 0917-8919255; 724-9010 and 724-9025.

Bo Cerrudo at Teatrino

"Cerrudo Classico: Songs from Stage and Screen" features balladeer Bo Cerrudo singing from a repertoire of well-loved theater and film soundtracks tonight at Teatrino, Greenhills.

Other performance dates are on Nov. 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29. Call Teatrino at 722-4532, 725-8961 loc. 116 and 0928-7347125.

Grace Nono in Butuan

Grace Nono performs with Bob Aves in "Huni," a concert for the environment on Oct. 30, 7 p.m. at the Inland Almont Convention Center, Butuan City.

The concert is being held in celebration of National Cooperative Month.

SHOW TIME

Tonight

- Michelle de Guzman and the New Version Band at Funnside, Timog Avenue, Quezon City.
- Joey Bautista at the Bellevue, Filinvest, Alabang. Call 771-8181.
- Excel Band at Manila Pavilion's Boulvar Sports & Music Bar, Ermita. Call 526-1212.

Tomorrow

- New Minstrels and Friends at Funnside.
- Major Impact at Manila Pavilion's Boulvar Sports & Music Bar.

Oct. 27

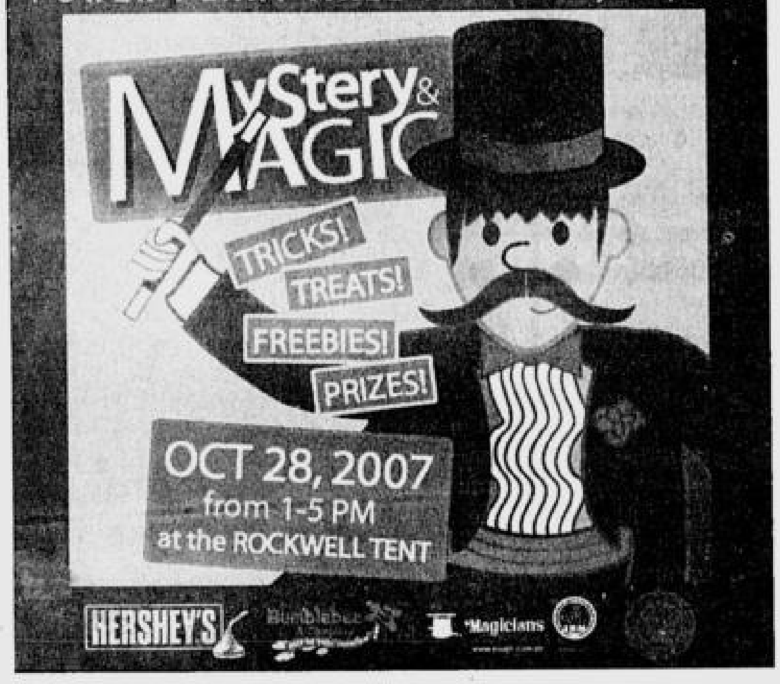
- Jonathan Badon at the Music Museum, Greenhills.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

KNOCKED UP R18	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL PG13	STARDUST G
THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING G	UNREST R13	RENDITION

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

POWER PLANT MALL and Kiddie-Party.com present



MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED

DAPAT MAG-ENJOY.
DAPAT KALIMUTAN ANG PROBLEMA.
DAPAT MONG PANOORIN.
KAHIT APAT NA BESES AY SULIT PA RIN!

Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan

Apat Dapat DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH

Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS

NO. 1 NA SA PATAWA, NO. 1 PA SA TAKILYA!

Halloween at Eastwood City

October 27, 2007
1:00 PM
Scaredy Cats & Dogs
Halloween costume contest & Trick or Treat with pets

8:00 PM
Magic 89.9's Witching Hour
feat. Kjwan, Pupil, Moonstar88, Join D Club & Lala

October 28, 2007
1:00 PM
Perfect Match
Search for the Best Pair in Halloween Costume
Get a chance to win cash prizes & gift packs

Eastwood City

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1	THE SEEKER 3:35, 6:05 GP	KNOCKED UP 8:25, 11:10 R-18
2	RENDITION 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:35	
3	STARDUST 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40 G	
4	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13	

the bloomfields
Catch them LIVE!
every Wednesday / 8:00 PM
Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION

SHANG CINEPLEX

① CINE EUROPA
② THE SEEKER
MTRCB: GP
③ RENDITION
(SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING)
④ BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL (PG-13)
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
STARDUST
MTRCB: GP

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

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Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts.
Apply at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters.
Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com
or call 633-4735 for details

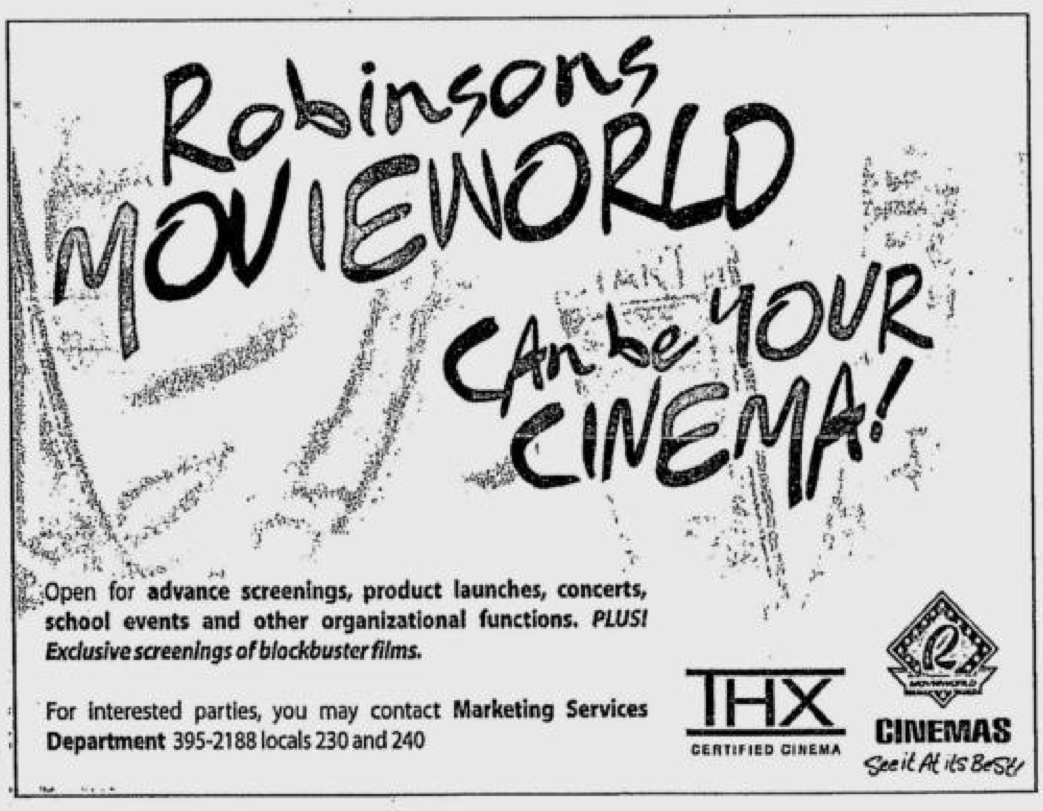
cine europa
10

October 19 - 31
Cinema 1, Shang Cineplex
Level 6, Shangri-La Plaza

October 24 (Wednesday)	
Closely Watched Trains	12:00 PM
Family & Alexander	2:00 PM
The Kiss	5:30 PM
Summer with the Ghost	7:45 PM
Dead Man's Hand	9:40 PM
October 25 (Thursday)	
The Umbrellas of Cherbourg	12:00 PM
La Mome	2:00 PM
FC Venus	5:00 PM
Kolya	7:20 PM
Leap	9:40 PM
Ooctober 26 (Friday)	
Taming the Shrew	12:00 PM
Ellis in Glamourland	2:30 PM
You am I	4:30 PM
Karakter	6:30 PM
Facing Windows	9:00 PM
October 27 (Saturday)	
Shooting Dogs	12:00 PM
Taming of the Shrew	2:30 PM
Carol's Journey	5:00 PM
Jalla! Jalla!	7:15 PM
Meeting the Enemy	9:15 PM
October 28 (Sunday)	
Summer with the Ghost	12:00 PM
Dead Man's Hand	2:00 PM
Fanny & Alexander	4:00 PM
The Kiss	7:30 PM
Closely Watched Trains	9:40 PM
October 29 (Monday)	
Jalla! Jalla!	12:00 PM
The Leopard	2:15 PM
Facing Windows	5:45 PM
Just Sex & Nothing Else	8:00 PM
Lives of Others	10:00
October 30 (Tuesday)	
Leap	12:00 PM
La Mome	2:00 PM
The Umbrellas of Cherbourg	4:50 PM
Kolya	6:50 PM
FC Venus	9:15 PM
October 31 (Wednesday)	
Just Sex & Nothing Else	12:00 PM
Karakter	2:00 PM
Carol's Journey	4:45 PM
Summer in Berlin	7:00 PM
The Leopard	9:15 PM

FREE ADMISSION
Seats on a first come, first served basis.

*Movies are subject to change without without prior notice.



Open for **advance screenings, product launches, concerts, school events and other organizational functions.** *PLUS! Exclusive screenings of blockbuster films.*

For interested parties, you may contact **Marketing Services Department** 395-2188 locals 230 and 240

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aranetacenter.net

Gateway Ali MALL FarmersPlaza
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Gateway CINEPLEX*10
gatewaycineplex10.com

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UNREST 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 12:15 / 2:35 / 4:55 / 7:15 / 9:50		Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
RENDITION 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 12:50 / 3:10 / 5:30 / 7:50 / 9:50	STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

Ali MALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 12:10 R5 / 1:00 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10	UNREST

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

PBA GAMES October 24, Wednesday 4:35 Welcoat vs Red Bull 7:20 Talk N Text vs Ginebra	WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP Nov. 3 to 11, 2007

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

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MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CINE EUROPA
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 RENDITION
4 STURDUST

PREMIERE
THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 RENDITION
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 UNREST

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268160

3 UNREST
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) RENDITION
5

metropolis star. cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433894

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIGHLANDER -V
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

THEATRES

1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-0271

DECEM BER BOYS
RESIDENT EVIL - 3
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 RENDITION
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 UNREST
4 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
6 KNOCKED UP
7 STURDUST
8 MR. WOODCOCK
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) RENDITION
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 UNREST
5 RENDITION

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL
3 PLEASE CALL
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 RENDITION
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 DECEMBER BOYS
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 STURDUST
4 RETRIBUTION

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 PLEASE CALL
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 RENDITION
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 STURDUST
4 KNOCKED UP

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 RETRIBUTION
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111140

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 THREE
4

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 NO RESERVATION
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 SKINWALKERS
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 PLEASE CALL
2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
2 PLEASE CALL
3
4

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 NO RESERVATION
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 THREE
4 MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
5 PLEASE CALL

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 DECEMBER BOYS
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 KNOCKED UP
4 PLEASE CALL

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

'If you're going through hell ...

From page F1

ture] does not work. But I also think it presents the political side of it, too, which is saying that you could be torturing one innocent man, but at the same time 5,000 people are alive ... because of information that the government elicited through [extraordinary] rendition." *AP*

Not a comeback

ROME—Even if "Youth Without Youth" is his first movie in a decade, Francis Ford Coppola insists he wasn't making a comeback to film-making.

"I never went anywhere," the Oscar-winning director said in an interview Sunday. "A comeback is like when a fighter stops fighting and then goes and says I'm retiring and then makes a comeback. Who is to say what a film director's schedule has to be?" *AP*

Billy Crawford's choice

"I have been following this competition since it started. This is one of the best dance competitions ever."

That was world-class Fil-Am recording and concert artist Billy Crawford, speaking before he performed with his dance crew, the Movers, at the kickoff party for the Skechers Streetdance Battle.

Now in its third year, the competition is open to all high school and college dance groups. Elimination rounds ended last Sunday, and the big showdown is set Dec. 1 at the Big Dome.

The team to beat is the University of the Philippines Diliman, champs for the past two years!

***

Top of the Talk Shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

- Ai-Ai delas Alas on Snooky's claim that she is the "most plastic" person in show biz:

"Actually *nakakatawa. Kasi nagsasabi siya ng totoo. Kung* 2004 *pa nangyari... sana nu'n pa lang sinabi na niya, 'Hoy, nainis ako sa 'yo... e di sana nakapag-sorry ako... Sino ang mas plastic sa amin, eh di siya. Naawa ako sa kanya kasi kailangan niyang mag-*resort *sa ganito [para mapag-usapan]*."

- Angelica Jones on leaving her family home due to differences with her mother, Beth:

"*Hindi kami nagka-away. Nagkaroon kami ng tampuhan, hindi pagkakaintindihan na hinihingi ko lang sa kanya ay* space *para makapag-isip. Pinag-iisipan ko, ang pinag-hirapan ko, saan napunta? Bakit nawala? 'Di naman niya inubos eh. 'Di naman siya nage-*enjoy*. 'Di siya maluho. Nagkataon lang talaga na nagkaroon kami ng* financial problem after elections. *Kung 'di ako kumandidato siguro wala na sanang problema pero nandoon na eh.*"

- Angelica's appeal to her mom's business partners:

"*Doon sa taong nagdemanda, tama na. Maawa naman kayo. Ang dami ko nang problema eh. Wag na lang dagdagan. Hindi naman artista ang nanay ko eh.*"

- John Lapus on people putting a wall between him and Direk Joyce Bernal over a joke he made in a comedy bar that made fun of the director's looks:

"*Kaibigan ko po si* Joyce Bernal, *hindi po niyo siya kaibigan. So wala ho kayong karapatang sabihin kung ano ang mga bagay na* ika-o-offend *niya sa mga bagay na hindi niya ika-o-*offend... I assure you, *pag hindi na ho ako nag-jo-*joke, *mas nakakatakot po ako. Paki-usap lang. Sabi nga ni* Incredible Hulk, 'Do not make me angry, you would not like me when I'm angry.' It's not a threat, it's a fact."

BILLY Crawford, singer-dancer, roots for "Streetdance Battle."

- Cesar Montano asked if he'd spar with Richard Gomez in a celebrity boxing match:

"*Noon ko pa hinahamon 'yan. Hindi naman sumasagot eh. Kaibigang hamon ito. Dahil ito, eh alam ko siya, meron din siyang* desire. *Kasi ang* paramount desire *namin dito ay makatulong sa* charity institutions. So, *magandang panoorin niyo kami ni* Richard."

- Lolit Solis defending her article in which she claims to have seen matinee idols Piolo Pascual and Sam Milby sharing a sweet moment at the poolside of Sofitel:

"*Wala akong sinasabing nakita ko silang naglalampungan. 'Yun lang ang nilagay na* headline *nu'ng* editor *ko pero wala yun sa loob ng* article."

- Lolit asked if she was willing to talk to the camps of Piolo and Sam:

"*Ano ang motibo ko para sabihin ang mga bagay na ito? At wala akong mapapala, di naman ako magkaka-pera dito. Kaya* anytime they want to talk to me, okay. *Kung sabihin nilang wala sila do'n. Hindi sila 'yung nakita ko, maniniwala ako. Gusto pa nila, i-deny ko na eh. Kasi sa haba ng tinakbo ng istoryang ito, ako na ang nagtaka. Nagtataka nga akong lumaki ng ganito. Parang* major event... *Parang, ano ba dapat ang patunayan?*"

- Lawyer Joji Alonso, counsel for Piolo Pascual and Sam Milby, commenting on Lolit's article:

"*Ano'ng gustong palabasin?* Definitely, there's malice. It's really below the belt. Piolo and Sam don't deserve this. In fact, if they deserve anything at all, it's a retraction because it's not true. The story itself and the way it was presented, that's libelous."

- Sam Milby, explaining his whereabouts at the time in question:

"From 4 p.m. until around maybe 6-6:30 [p.m.], I was at Toni & Guy [salon]."

- Sam, on his feelings about Lolit's article:

"This I think is below the belt, yes. I am upset, because if it's her opinion... If she has an opinion about me, that's fine, you know. She doesn't know me but if she's gonna write, if she's gonna completely fabricate a story and make something up, then that's where the line should be drawn. And that's wrong." (In English, please?)

- Sam, asked if he had talked to Piolo since the controversy:

"We talked a little bit pretty much about, you know, about the actions we're planning on taking." (Careful.)

- Sam on his planned legal action:

"I'm demanding a retraction, a public apology. I am [suing] if [I don't get that]." (Got that.)

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
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HIGHEST 3-DAY WEEKEND GROSS (Sept. 21-23)
5TH WEEK
We have witnessed the BEGINNING...
We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
Now we face EXTINCTION.
STILL THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA!
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

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CINEMA 1 UNREST R-13
CINEMA 2 KNOCKED UP // STARDUST R-18 // GP
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 THE SEEKER GP
CINEMA 4 RENDITION
CINEMA 5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM

October 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
October 27, 2007	Jonathan Badon	8:00 PM
November 9&10, 16&17, 23&24	"Into the Woods" musical	8:00 PM
November 15, 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Oct 24,31/Nov 7,14,15 21,22, 28 &29	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM
October 26, 2007 October 27, 2007	John Lesaca Angelos	8:00 PM 8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

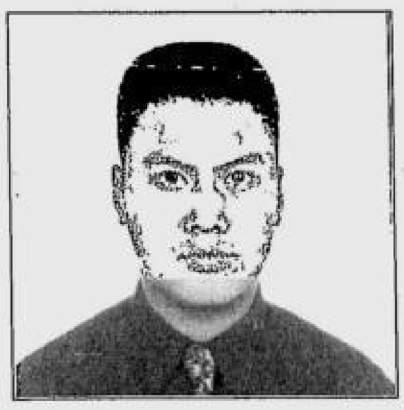
Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Tongliang Niu Chinese	Engineer
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Renlong Chen Chinese	Mechanic
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Jian Yu Chinese	Accountant
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Keqin Li Chinese	Engineer
BIRKART GLOBISTICS PHILIPPINES INC. Oyster Complex II, Units 3 & 4, San Dionisio, Parañaque City	Christopher Reinhard Bauer German	Sales Manager
CUMULATIVE NON-NATIVE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE SCHOOL, INC. 4/F Claretian Comm. Bldg., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City	Jeongsoon Park (w/o Lee) Korean	Student Coordinator
LEONIS NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC. 915 Leonis Bldg., Pres. Quirino Ave., cor. Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila	Takashi Uto Japanese	Manager
FILACE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CORP. 7 Amber Square Esriba Drive Bldg., San Antonio, Ortigas, Pasig City	Kyung Sook Jung (wife of Kim) Korean	Manager for Operations-Southbound
MANTEXT TRADERS LTD. CO. U-8 San Diego Fishery Bldg., 426 C. Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila	Lizuan Wang Chinese	Sales Representative
ACQUIRE ASIA PACIFIC PHILIPPINES, INC. 24/F Trafalgar Plaza, 105 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Mark Paul Apletree Australian	Senior Program Manager
BESTSUN INT'L CORP. Unit 1543 City & Land Megaplaza ADB Ave. cor Garnet Rd., Ortigas Ctr., San Antonio, Pasig City	Sang Wuk Kim Korean	Vice President
SURE VARIETY TRADING, INC. Rm. 602 Juliana Bldg., 907 Severino Reyes St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Lipeng Wang Chinese	Technical Consultant
CBC IMPORT & EXPORT TRADING LTD. CO. Rm 602-A Taytana Plaza Bldg., Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila	Jiangbo Yang Chinese	Sales Representative
FORMOSA COMPUTER WORLD II Q-22 2/F Harrison Plaza Shopping Mall, Adriatico & Mabini Sts., Malate, Manila	Chao-Hsiung Shih a.k.a. James Shih Taiwanese	Web Site Translator M.I.S.
ALLEGIANCE TRADING CORP. 5/F Juan Luna Plaza, Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila	Akui Zhang Chinese	Marketing Manager
KMNUGA BEST INC. L.T. Bldg., 8281 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City	Kee Hye Kim (w/o Cho) Korean	General Manager
MGC LA SEMA CORPORATION 7232 Malugay St., Barangay Bel-Air II, Makati City	Joomyoung Kim Korean	Comptroller
NEUNGYULE EDUPHONE, INC. 9/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood Ave., Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Hyundong Choi Korean	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI-October 24, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform the public that **Mr. Armando C. Hernandez**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with Standard Insurance since September 10, 2007. All transactions made through Mr. Hernandez after the said date will no longer be honored by the company.

(PDI--Oct. 24, 2007)

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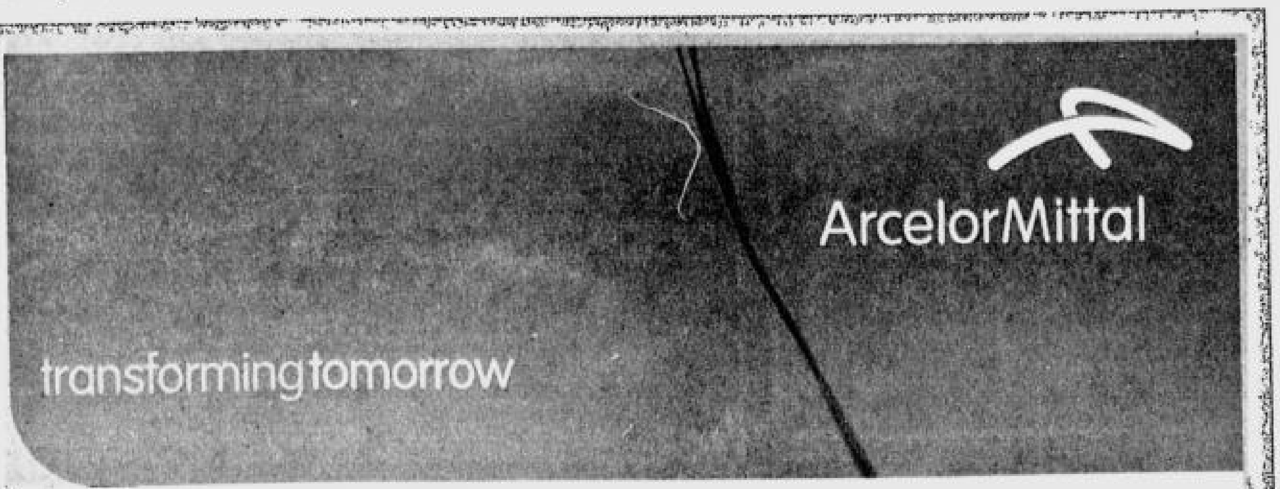
Inquire about the Job Market package at 897-8808 loc. 514

You can now checkout more jobs from JobMarket Libre everyday!



People is our most important asset and we are seeking fine individuals who are dynamic, passionate about work and achievement oriented to provide top notch services to our customers in line with our expansion into the regional markets. Applicant must possess high degree of integrity & proficient in English with good communication & presentation skill.

Sales Engineer (Phillippines-Manila)

- Degree Holder in Civil Engineering with a minimum of 2 years marketing experience
- Result oriented, motivated individual and able to work independently
- Possess good interpersonal skill, customer oriented with good presentation skill
- Willing to travel anywhere in the Philippines
- Training @ Malaysia will be provided

ORIENTAL SHEET PILING Interested candidate is invited to submit your application together with passport size photograph no later than **5th Nov 2007**, E-mail to : hr.department@orientalsheetpiling.com

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Contract Manager

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of service contract project manager at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. Contract currently encompasses aviation and waterfront operations, dining facility operation, MWR, facilities support. Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have appropriate clearances and will preferably have had prior military experience. Submit resumé, compensation requirements, and inquiries to: HRO@navfacpacific.us.

Quality Assurance Representative

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of quality assurance representative at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. The position will provide quality assurance for service contracts and construction contracts. Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have a minimum of a BS in an appropriate engineering curriculum from an accredited university. Submit resumé, compensation requirements, and inquiries to: HRO@navfacpacific.us.

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO BID

The Pag-IBIG Fund is inviting offers to buy by way of individual Sealed Bids on an "AS IS, WHERE IS Basis" for the following property and equipment:

DESCRIPTION	NO. OF UNITS	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE	PRE-BID CONFERENCE
I. Unserviceable Motor Vehicles	18	P 100.00	Oct. 30, 2007
1996 Toyota Corolla XL	9		
1994 Toyota Tamaraw FX Wagon	4		
1993 Toyota Tamaraw FX	1		
1995 Mitsubishi Lancer EL	1		
1996 Mitsubishi L-200 Pick-up	1		
1994 Mitsubishi L-200 Pick-up	1		
2000 Nissan Cefiro Brougham AT, 2.0 V6 VIP	1		
II. Unserviceable Office Equipment, Furniture and Fixtures, Obsolete Forms and Waste Materials	1 Lot	P 100.00	Nov. 5, 2007

Bidding Guidelines will be available at the Property and Supply Management Division, General Services Department, Rm 704, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, City of Makati beginning October 24, 2007 upon payment of the corresponding non-refundable fee.

Pre-bid conference shall be held on the above schedule at 2:00 in the afternoon at Room 602, 6th floor, Arnel Taduran Hall, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, City of Makati. Schedule of submission and opening of bids will be announced during the said conference.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the Fund. Further, the Pag-IBIG Fund assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Ms. Vivian Y. Aguilar or Cesar V. Racoma at 894-58-15 or 811-43-15.

(Sgd.) **DELIA L. BERNARDO**
Vice President, Administration Group
Chair, Disposal Committee

(PDI--Oct. 24, 25 & 26, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
October 24, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	CHARIS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY, INC. Brgy. Don Jose, Sta. Rosa City	Ms. Jeong Mi Son/ Korean	General Manager
2.	DAEDUCK PHILIPPINES, INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Jin Young Kim/ Korean	Plant Manager
3.	DAEDUCK PHILIPPINES, INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Seh Chan Oh/ Korean	QM Manager
4.	MITSUBA MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Takeshi Kawakami/ Japanese	QC/QA Manager
5.	KUM KANG CERAMIC PHIL. CO., INC. Brgy. Conchu, Trece Martires City	Mr. Si Choon Kim/ Korean	Artist/Sculptor
6.	NESTLE PHILIPPINES, INC. Bo. Niugan, Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Heinz-Jurgen Ernst Franz Langemeier/German	Corporate Engineer
7.	INTERNATIONAL BRITISH ACADEMY, INC. Anabu II-D, Imus, Cavite	Ms. Rong Hua/ Chinese	Mandarin Teacher

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

(PDI Oct 24 2007)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office:
897-8425 (Telefax)
899-4427;
897-8808
loc. 514, 516;
899-4425;

Cubao:
912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)

Makati:
892-5578;
811-4361;
811-4370

Kalaw:
523-5570
loc. 115 or 116

Megamall:
635-0219;
635-0220

MARINDUQUE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(MARELCO)
Ihatub, Boac, Marinduque

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MARELCO) through its Pre-Bid and Awards Committee (PBAC) hereby invites all interested suppliers for public bidding for the supply and delivery of electrical materials and equipments for the Line Rehabilitation, System Improvement and upgrading.

Schedule I	Poles & Crossarms (assorted sizes)
Schedule II	Transformers
Schedule III	Cut Outs, Wires and Cables
Schedule IV	Kilowatthour Meters
Schedule V	Pole line hardware, tools and equipment

Approved Budget	P 9.0M
Source of Funds	N.E.A. - CARE Fund

Bidding Requirements:

1. Bidder must be an "Accredited Supplier" of MARELCO
2. Must have attended the Pre-Bid Conference
3. Must have secured Bid Documents upon payment of non-refundable amount of Six Thousand Pesos (P6,000.00)
4. Must have posted 10% Bid Bond in cash or Manager's check.

Schedule of Activities:

1.	Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 5, 2007-9:00 a.m
2.	Bid-Submission and Opening	Nov. 6, 2007-9:00 a.m
3.	Submission of recommendation of Award to the General Manager	Nov. 8, 2007

MARELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein or accept the bid that in its judgment is the most beneficial to the Cooperative.

For more information, please contact the PBAC Chairman, Agnes S. Espino at Telephone No.: (042)332-1043.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO Q. BUENO**
General Manager

(PDI - Oct. 24 & 26, 2007)

The Public is hereby notified that the heirs of the late MARCELO M. RAMIREZ have executed an Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate over a parcel of lot (known as Lot No. 21-099, consisting of 360 square meters, more or less, situated at Poblacion, Valencia, Bukidnon; lot (known as Lot No. 1-B-1-A-3, being a portion of Lot No. 1-B-1-A, Psd-101327-019433 consisting of 335 square meters, more or less, situated at Barrio of Poblacion, Municipality of Valencia; a parcel of land (known as lot no. 222-U-9-A, being a portion of lot no. 222-U-9 consisting of 5,000 square meters, more or less, situated at Poblacion, Municipality of Valencia, of the Register of Deeds of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, before Notary Public Hippocrates R. Rocina entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 475; Page No. 95; Book No. VII; Series of 2007.

(PDI–Oct. 24, 31 and Nov. 7, 2007)

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
2/F Building 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, 1003 Manila
Trunk Line 743-83-01 Direct Line: 711-9501; Fax: 743-1829; 743-1786
URL: http://www.doh.gov.ph; e-mail: osec@doh.gov.ph

August 22, 2007

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2007 - 0027

SUBJECT : Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensure and Regulation of Clinical Laboratories in the Philippines

I. RATIONALE

One of the main thrusts of current health sector reforms under FOURmula One (F1) for Health is regulation. The main objective of regulatory reforms is to ensure access to quality and affordable health products, devices, facilities and services, especially those commonly used by the poor.

Physicians utilize laboratory work-ups in aid of diagnosis and management of patients. Accuracy of laboratory results is important in assuring and improving the quality of patient care. Republic Act No. 4688 s. 1966, "An Act Regulating the Operation and Maintenance of Clinical Laboratories and Requiring the Registration of the Same with the Department of Health, Providing Penalty for the Violation Thereof, and for Other Purposes," mandated the DOH to look after public welfare by effectively enforcing and updating the current regulations to improve laboratory performance.

Advances in technology necessitate the need to update the minimum standards and technical requirements for clinical laboratories. Current regulatory issuances on this matter may no longer be relevant. One of these is Administrative Order No. 59 s. 2001, entitled: "Rules and Regulations Governing the Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of Clinical Laboratories in the Philippines." Thus, this Order revises such issuance in order to ensure the quality of services of clinical laboratories nationwide.

II. OBJECTIVE

This Order is promulgated to prescribe a revised minimum standard for clinical laboratories. This shall also ensure accuracy and precision of laboratory examinations in order to safeguard public health and safety.

III. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

This Administrative Order shall apply to all individuals, agencies, partnerships or corporations that operate clinical laboratories in the Philippines performing examination and analysis of samples of tissues, fluids, secretions, excretions, or other materials from the human body that would yield relevant laboratory information, which physicians use for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases, and the management and promotion of personal and public health.

Government clinical laboratories, doing microscopy work only for specific DOH programs such as but not limited to malaria screening, acid fast bacilli microscopy, tests for sexually transmitted infections, and cervical cancer screening using Pap smears, shall be exempted from the provisions of this Order.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Order, the following terms and acronyms shall have the following definition:

1. *Applicant* – a natural or juridical person who intends to operate a clinical laboratory
2. *BHFS* – acronym for the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services
3. *CHD* – acronym for the Center for Health Development
4. *Clinical Laboratory* – a facility where tests are done on specimens from the human body to obtain information about the health status of a patient for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases. These tests include, but are not limited to, the following disciplines: clinical chemistry, hematology, immunohematology, microbiology, immunology, clinical microscopy, histopathology, cytology, toxicology, endocrinology, molecular biology, and cytogenetics. Other functions of the clinical laboratory are to provide consultative advisory services covering all aspects of laboratory investigation including the interpretation of results and advice on further appropriate investigation. Facilities that are involved in the pre-analytical processes, such as the collection, handling or preparation of specimens, or act as a mailing or distribution center, such as in a laboratory network or system are also considered to be a part of a clinical laboratory. The total testing process includes pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical procedures.
5. *Critical Values* – panic values originally described by Lundberg as "life-threatening" unless something is done promptly and for which some corrective action could be undertaken.
6. *DOH* – acronym for the Department of Health
7. *EQAP*- acronym for External Quality Assessment Program. It is a program where participating laboratories are given unknown samples for analysis. These samples are to be treated as ordinary human specimens for the usual processing and examination. The quality of performance of the laboratory shall be assessed through the closeness of its results to the pre-determined value or to the reference value generated by the participating laboratories through peer group analysis.
8. *Inspection Tool* – the checklist used by the regulatory officers during inspection visit(s) to evaluate compliance of a clinical laboratory to the minimum standards and technical requirements.
9. *Institution* – a corporate body or establishment organized for an educational, medical, charitable, or similar purpose.
10. *License* – the document issued by the DOH to an individual, agency, partnership or corporation that operates a clinical laboratory upon compliance with the requirements set forth in this Order.
11. *Licensee* – the individual, agency, partnership or corporation to whom the license is issued and upon whom rests compliance with this Order.
12. *LTO* – acronym for License to Operate. It also refers to the license
13. *Mobile Clinical Laboratory* – a laboratory testing unit that moves from testing site to another testing site, or has a temporary testing location. It shall have a base laboratory.
14. *Monitoring Examinations* – tests done in series on patients as a guide for treatment or follow-up of their condition.
15. *NRL* – acronym for the National Reference Laboratory. It is a laboratory in a government hospital which had been designated by the DOH to provide special functions and services for specific disease areas. These functions include provision of referral services such as confirmatory testing, surveillance, resolution of conflicting results between or among laboratories; training; research, implementation of EQAS; evaluation of diagnostic kits and reagents. An NRL may or may not be part of a general clinical laboratory.
16. *POL* – acronym for Physician's Office Laboratory. It is an individual doctor's office/ clinic wherein laboratory examinations are performed.
17. *POCT* – acronym for Point of Care Testing. It is a diagnostic testing at or near the site of patient care rather than in the clinical laboratory. It includes bedside testing, outpatient and home care.
18. *Routine Tests* – the basic, commonly requested tests in the laboratory, the results of which are not required to be released immediately upon completion. It shall follow the usual procedures and system in the laboratory.
19. *Satellite Testing Site* – any testing site that performs laboratory examinations under the administrative control of a licensed laboratory, but performed outside the physical confines of that laboratory.
20. *STAT Tests* – tests done on urgent cases, the results of which shall be released immediately, within one (1) hour after the procedure. STAT is an abbreviation for sta'tim which means immediately.

V. CLASSIFICATION OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES

A. Classification by Ownership
   1. Government – operated and maintained, partially or wholly, by the national government, a local government unit (provincial, city or municipal), any other political unit or any department, division, board or agency thereof
   2. Private – owned, established and operated by any individual, corporation, association or organization

B. Classification by Function
   1. Clinical Pathology – includes Clinical Chemistry, Hematology, Immunohematology, Microbiology, Immunology, Clinical Microscopy, Endocrinology, Molecular Biology, Cytogenetics, Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and other similar disciplines
   2. Anatomic Pathology – includes Surgical Pathology, Immunohistopathology, Cytology, Autopsy, Forensic Pathology and Molecular Pathology

C. Classification by Institutional Character
   1. Institution Based – a laboratory that operates within the premises and as part of an institution, such as but not limited to hospital, medical clinic, school, medical facility for overseas workers and seafarers, birthing home, psychiatric facility, drug rehabilitation center
   2. Freestanding – a laboratory that does not form part of any other institution

D. Classification by Service Capability
   1. General Clinical Laboratory
      (a) Primary Category – provides the following minimum service capabilities:
         i. Routine Hematology [Complete Blood Count – includes Hemoglobin Mass Concentration, Erythrocyte Volume Fraction (Hematocrit), Leucocyte Number Concentration (White Blood Cell or WBC Count) and Leucocyte Type Number Fraction (Differential Count)]
         ii. Qualitative Platelet Determination
         iii. Routine Urinalysis
         iv. Routine Fecalysis
         v. Blood Typing – for hospital based
      (b) Secondary Category – provides the minimum service capabilities of a primary category laboratory plus the following:
         i. Routine Clinical Chemistry – includes Blood Glucose Substance Concentration, Blood Urea Nitrogen Concentration, Blood Uric Acid Substance Concentration, Blood Creatinine Concentration, Blood Total Cholesterol Concentration
         ii. Quantitative Platelet Determination
         iii. Cross Matching – for hospital based
         iv. Gram Staining – for hospital based
         v. KOH – for hospital based
      (c) Tertiary Category – provides the minimum service capabilities of a secondary category laboratory plus the following:
         i. Special Chemistry
         ii. Special Hematology, including coagulation procedures
         iii. Immunology
         iv. Microbiology – culture and sensitivity
            · aerobic and anaerobic (for hospital based)
            · aerobic or anaerobic (for non-hospital based)

      A clinical laboratory, licensed under any of the above category, shall be permitted to offer laboratory services other than the respective stipulated minimum services, *provided that*, they comply with the requirements with respect to staff, equipment, reagents and supplies for such additional services, *provided further*, that such additional services are listed under its LTO.

      (d) Limited Service Capability (for institution-based only) – provides the laboratory tests required for a particular service in institutions such as but not limited to dialysis centers and social hygiene clinics.
   2. Special Clinical Laboratory
      A laboratory that offers highly specialized laboratory services that are usually not provided by a general clinical laboratory.

VI. GUIDELINES

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES
   1. The LTO shall be issued only to clinical laboratories that comply with the standards and technical requirements formulated by the BHFS.
   2. Clinical laboratories that are operated and maintained exclusively for research and teaching purposes shall be exempted from the licensing requirement of this Order but shall be required to register with the BHFS.
   3. Special clinical laboratories that are not subject to the provisions of other administrative orders, such as but not limited to, Assisted Reproduction Technology Laboratories, Molecular and Cellular Technology, Molecular Biology, Molecular Pathology, Forensic Pathology, Anatomic Pathology laboratories operating independent of a clinical laboratory are required to register with the BHFS without being licensed under the provisions of this Order. Such procedure shall subsist until the appropriate regulation for such purpose is subsequently promulgated. A pathologist or a licensed physician who is trained in the management, principles and methodology of the specialized services that are being provided shall head this type of laboratory.
   4. The NRL designated by the DOH shall be covered by the license of the clinical laboratory of the hospital where they are respectively assigned. The NRL that is physically independent from the clinical laboratory of the hospital where they are respectively assigned shall be allowed to register only with the BHFS, *provided that*, they are duly accredited or certified by an international accrediting or certifying body, such as but not limited to, the Center for Disease Control of the U.S.A and the World Health Organization and/ or local accrediting or certifying body recognized by the DOH.
   5. A POL is required to secure a clinical laboratory license when it undertakes any or all of the following activities:
      (a) Issue official laboratory results;
      (b) Perform more than monitoring examinations; and,
      (c) Cater not only to the physician's own patients.
      Examinations performed in a POL shall only be permitted when they are used for monitoring patients.
   6. A POCT, conducted in a hospital, is required to be under the management and supervision of the licensed clinical laboratory of the respective hospital.

B. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES
   1. Standards
      Every clinical laboratory shall be organized to provide quality, effective and efficient laboratory services.
      (a) Human Resource
         i. Every clinical laboratory shall be headed and managed by a pathologist, certified either as a Clinical Pathologist, an Anatomic Pathologist, or both by the Philippine Board of Pathology.
         ii. The head of the laboratory shall have administrative and technical supervision of the activities in the laboratory.
         iii. The head of the laboratory shall supervise the staff in accordance to the standards set by the Philippine Society of Pathologists.
         iv. There shall be an adequate number of medical technologists and other health professionals with documented training and experience to conduct the laboratory procedures. The number of staff shall depend on the workload and the services being provided.
         v. There shall be staff development and continuing education program at all levels of organization to upgrade the knowledge, attitude and skills of staff.
      (b) Equipment
         i. There shall be available and operational equipment to provide the laboratory examinations that the laboratory is licensed for.
         ii. There shall be a calibration, preventive maintenance and repair program for the equipment.
         iii. There shall be a contingency plan in case of equipment breakdown.
      (c) Glassware, Reagents and Supplies
         i. There shall be available reagents, glassware and supplies for the laboratory examinations to be provided.
         ii. There shall be an inventory control of the reagents, glassware and supplies.
         iii. The reagents, glassware and supplies shall be stored under the required conditions.
      (d) Administrative Policies and Procedures - The clinical laboratory shall have written policies and procedures for the provision of laboratory services and for the operation and maintenance of the laboratory.
      (e) Technical Procedures - There shall be documented technical procedures for services provided in each Section of the laboratory, which will ensure the quality of laboratory results.
      (f) Quality Assurance Program
         i. There shall be an Internal Quality Assurance Program which shall include:
            a) An Internal Quality Control Program for technical procedures
            b) An Internal Quality Assurance Program for inputs, processes and outputs
            c) A Continuous Quality Improvement Program covering all aspects of laboratory performance.
         ii. The clinical laboratory shall participate in an EQAP administered by designated NRL or in other local and international EQAP approved by the DOH.
      (g) Communication and Records
         i. There shall be procedures for the receipt and performance of routine and STAT requests for laboratory examinations.
         ii. There shall be procedures for the reporting of results of routine and STAT laboratory examinations, including critical values that would impact on patient care.
         iii. All laboratory reports on various examinations of specimens shall bear the name and facsimile signature of the pathologist who shall be accountable for the reliability of the results. The reports shall also bear the name and signature of the registered medical technologist(s) who have performed the examinations. Electronic signatures shall be permitted in accordance to the provisions of the E-Commerce Law.
         iv. There shall be procedures for the reporting of workload, quality control, inventory control, work schedule and assignments.
         v. There shall be procedures for the reporting and analysis of incidents, adverse events, and in handling complaints.
         vi. The retention of laboratory records shall be in accordance to the standards promulgated by the DOH or by competent authorities for such purposes.
      (h) Physical Facilities/ Work Environment
         i. The clinical laboratory shall conform to all applicable local and national regulations for the construction, renovation, maintenance and repair of clinical laboratories.
         ii. The laboratory shall conform to the required space for the conduct of its activities.
         iii. There shall be well-ventilated, lighted, clean, safe and functional areas based on the services provided.
         iv. There shall be a program of proper maintenance and monitoring of physical plant and facilities.
         v. There shall be procedures for the proper disposal of waste and hazardous substances.
         vi. There shall be policy guidelines on laboratory biosafety and biosecurity.
      (i) Referral of Examinations Outside of the Clinical Laboratory - When laboratory examinations are referred to and provided by an outside laboratory, the head of the referring clinical laboratory shall obtain assurance of the quality of services provided through a Memorandum of Agreement or its equivalent with a licensed clinical laboratory performing the laboratory services needed.
   2. LTO
      (a) The LTO is issued in the name of the licensee and is non-transferable, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, through sale, assignment or any other means. The license is not valid for any premise/ location other than that which is stipulated therein.
      (b) The LTO issued to a clinical laboratory, unless sooner suspended or revoked, is valid for one year and expires on the date set forth by the CHD, as stipulated on the face of the license.
      (c) The LTO issued to a non-hospital based clinical laboratory shall specifically stipulate the following: name of the clinical laboratory, name/s of the owner or operator, head of the laboratory, service capability, period of validity, license number, and, location wherein the laboratory procedures are to be performed.
      (d) The LTO issued to a non-hospital based clinical laboratory must be displayed at all times at a prominent place within the laboratory premises.
      (e) Hospital based clinical laboratories shall be licensed as part of the hospital through the One-Stop-Shop Licensure for Hospitals and are therefore not required to obtain a separate license.
      (f) The capability to perform HIV testing and/ or drinking water analysis shall be specifically indicated in the LTO, as issued by the CHD.
      (g) The clinical laboratory and its satellite services within the same compound shall have one (1) LTO.
      (h) A satellite laboratory outside the premises where the central laboratory is situated shall be required to secure a separate LTO.
      (i) Mobile clinical laboratories shall be licensed as part of the main clinical laboratory and shall be permitted to collect specimens only. It shall be allowed to operate only within one hundred (100) km radius from its main laboratory.
      (j) Changes that would substantially affect the conditions of a clinical laboratory, as set forth in its LTO, shall be reported to the concerned CHD within two (2) weeks from the initial date of implementation. The report shall be in writing, signed by the licensee, and submitted to the concerned CHD for notation.
      (k) The LTO maybe revoked, suspended or modified in full or in part for any material false statement by the applicant, or as shown by the record of inspection or for a violation of, or failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions and provisions of these rules and regulations.

VII. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

A. Registration for Special Clinical Laboratories, National Reference Laboratories, Research and Teaching Laboratories
   1. Applicants can acquire the prescribed Application Form for Registration from the BHFS, CHD that has jurisdiction over the existing or proposed clinical laboratory, or at the DOH website (www.doh.gov.ph).
   2. The accomplished form together with the necessary attachments is to be submitted to the BHFS or through the CHD that has jurisdiction over the existing or proposed clinical laboratory. The applicant shall be required to pay a non-refundable application fee for Certificate of Registration upon submission of the accomplished form and documentary requirements.
   3. The BHFS shall evaluate and accept applications based on due execution of forms and completeness of attachments.

B. Procedures for Application for Initial/Renewal of LTO
   1. Applicants can acquire the prescribed application form for LTO from the BHFS, CHD that has jurisdiction over the existing or proposed clinical laboratory, or at the DOH website (www.doh.gov.ph).
   2. The accomplished form together with the necessary attachments is to be submitted to the CHD that has jurisdiction over the existing or proposed clinical laboratory. The applicant shall be required to pay a non-refundable application fee for LTO upon submission of the accomplished form.
   3. The CHD that has jurisdiction over the existing or proposed clinical laboratory shall conduct inspections in accordance with licensing requirements, as provided for under this Order and the One-Stop-Shop Licensure System for Hospitals.

C. Renewal of LTO
   1. Renewal of hospital based clinical laboratories shall be in accordance with the licensing process under the One-Stop-Shop Licensure System for Hospitals.
   2. Non-hospital based clinical laboratories shall file applications for renewal of LTO beginning on the first day of October until the last day of November of the current year. A discount on the renewal fee shall be granted if a complete application is filed during this period.
   3. Renewal of license for compliant clinical laboratories shall be processed not later than five (5) working days after the expiration date of its license.
   4. The LTO of a clinical laboratory shall be automatically cancelled without notice when it fails to submit a duly accomplished application form and to pay the proper fee on or before the expiration date stated in its license.

D. Inspection
   1. The CHD shall conduct an announced licensure inspection at any reasonable time.
   2. The licensee shall ensure the accessibility of the premises and facilities where the laboratory examinations are being performed for the inspection of the CHD Director or his authorized representative(s) at any reasonable time.
   3. The licensee shall ensure the availability of all pertinent records for checking/ review of the CHD Director or his authorized representative(s).
   4. An inspection tool, which prescribes the standards, criteria and technical requirements for the issuance of LTO, shall be utilized.

E. Monitoring
   1. All clinical laboratories shall be monitored regularly.
   2. The BHFS or the CHD Director or his authorized representative(s) shall monitor clinical laboratories through monitoring visits to the laboratory at any reasonable time.
   3. All clinical laboratories shall ensure that all laboratory records, premises and facilities are made available to the BHFS or the CHD Director or his authorized representative(s) in order to determine compliance with the provisions of this Order.
   4. A Notice of Violation for non-compliant clinical laboratories shall be issued immediately after monitoring the clinical laboratory.
   5. The CHD concerned shall submit a quarterly summary of the violations to the BHFS stating the name of the clinical laboratory, location, its corresponding violation and the course of action taken.
   6. The Provincial, City and Municipal Health Officers are enjoined to report to the BHFS/ CHD the existence of unlicensed clinical laboratories or any private party performing laboratory examinations without proper license and/ or violations to these rules and regulations.

VIII. SCHEDULE OF FEES

(a) A non-refundable fee shall be charged for the initial application/ renewal of license to operate a clinical laboratory, either government or private.
(b) All fees/ checks shall be paid to the order of DOH in person or through postal money order.
(c) All fees, surcharges and discounts shall follow the current DOH prescribed schedule of fees.

IX. VIOLATIONS

Violation of Republic Act 4688 or these rules and regulations and/ or commission of the following acts by personnel operating the clinical laboratory under this authority shall be penalized:

(a) Refusal of any clinical laboratory to participate in an EQAP conducted by the designated NRL or other external proficiency program approved by the DOH;
(b) Issuance of a report, orally or in writing, in whole or portions thereof, which is not in accordance with the documented procedure approved by the head of the laboratory;
(c) Permitting unauthorized persons to perform technical procedures;
(d) Demonstrating incompetence or making consistent errors in the performance of clinical laboratory examinations and procedures;
(e) Deviation from the standard test procedures including use of expired reagents;
(f) Reporting/ release of erroneous results;
(g) Lending or using the name of the licensed clinical laboratory or the head of the laboratory or medical technologist to an unlicensed clinical laboratory;
(h) Unauthorized use of the name and signature of the pathologist and medical technologist to secure LTO;
(i) Reporting a test result for a clinical specimen even if the test was not actually performed;
(j) Transferring of results of tests done in an outside clinical laboratory to the result form of the referring laboratory;
(k) Performing and reporting tests in a specialty or subspecialty in which the laboratory is not licensed for;
(l) Giving and receiving any commission, bonus, kickback or rebate or engaging in any split-fee arrangement in any form whatsoever with any facility, physician, organization, agency or person, either directly or indirectly, for patients referred to a clinical laboratory licensed by the DOH.

X. INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

(a) The BHFS or the CHD Director or his authorized representative(s) shall investigate the complaint and verify if the laboratory concerned or any of its personnel is accountable for an alleged violation.
(b) The CHD Director or his authorized representative(s), after investigation, shall suspend, cancel or revoke for a determined period of time the LTO of licensees who are found violating the provisions of R.A. 4688 or this Order, without prejudice to taking the case to judicial authority for criminal action. The CHD shall seek the assistance of any law enforcement agency to execute the closure of any erring clinical laboratory, when necessary.

XI. PENALTY

Any person who operates a clinical laboratory without the proper license from the DOH shall upon conviction be subject to imprisonment for not less than one (1) month or a fine of not less than Php 1,000.00 and not more than Php 5,000.00 or both at the discretion of the court. Provided however, that if the offender is a firm or corporation, the managing head and/ or owner(s) thereof shall be liable to the penalty imposed herein.

XII. APPEAL

The decision of the BHFS/CHD may be appealed to the Office of the Health Secretary within ten (10) days after receipt of the notice of the decision. Thereupon, the BHFS shall promptly certify and file a copy of the decision, including all documents and transcript of hearings on which the decision is based, with the Office of the Health Secretary for review. The decision of the Office of the Health Secretary is final and executory.

XIII. REPEALING CLAUSE

Provisions from previous issuances that are inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Order are hereby rescinded and modified accordingly.

XIV. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

In the event that any provision or part of this Order be declared unauthorized or rendered invalid by any court of law or competent authority, those provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain valid and effective.

XV. EFFECTIVITY

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its approval and publication in the official gazette or newspaper of general circulation.

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc
Secretary of Health

(PDI–October 24, 2007)

DR. MITA PARDO DE TAVERA

Joined her Creator on October 23, 2007

Her bereaved children:
Xavier & **Mert**, **Josine**, **Alex** & **Marilen**, **Mara**;

Grandchildren: **Mark** & **Liza**, **Joey** & **Carl**, **Joaquin**,
Juan & **Bianca**, **Freddie**, **Zev** (†), **Alexis**, **Igo**, **Carlos**, **Maricar**,
Beatriz, **Carlo**, **Giovanni** & **Rene**;

Great-grandchildren: **Samantha**, **Xavi**, **Jack**, **Andie** & **Isabeli**

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will be at the "Capilla De La Virgen", Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Funeral Mass will be at 1:00 in the afternoon on Friday, the 26th of October, 2007.

ALAY KAPWA KILUSAN PANGKALUSUGAN (AKAP)

Wishes to announce the demise of its Founder and Chairman

DR. MITA PARDO DE TAVERA

Papal Awardee
Former Secretary, Department of Social Welfare & Development
Former Chairman, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
Former President, Philippine Tuberculosis Society
Former President, Philippine Cancer Society

Her remains will be at the Santuario de San Antonio's "Capilla De La Virgen", Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will take place on Friday, October 26, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

EDITHA G. VITASA

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 21, 2007
at the age of 60.

Her husband **Rolando**; her children **Jun** and **Olga**, **Patricia** and **Donna** and **Paul**; grandchildren **Paeng**, **Yssa** and **Claire**; brothers and sisters, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz - Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Tentative interment will be on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

> *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*
> – 2 Timothy 4:7

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

Deeply missed, never forgotten

In Loving Memory

on the 15th death anniversary of

GREGORIO R. CASTILLO

Founder and Former Managing Partner

on October 24, 2007

We request pious readers, clients and friends to join us in our prayers.

CASTILLO LAMAN TAN
PANTALEON & SAN JOSE
LAW FIRM

> **"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."**
> —2 Corinthians 5:4-5

JOSE TAGLE DIZON

Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 20, 2007

His wife **Petronita**; children **Teza** & **Frank**, **Jopay** & **Vangie**, **Juancho** (†), **Yazmine**, **Divina** & **Hans**, **Ruby** & **Ramon**, **Pearla** & **Teody**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren request you to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of our beloved Papa.

He lies in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Final Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, October 27, 2007. Cremation will follow at 10:00 a.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
LEYTE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
A. Mabini Street, Tacloban City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid SECURITY SERVICES FOR CY 2008

Brief Description: *Furnishing of Security Services to Various Offices/Facilities of the Leyte Metropolitan Water District for CY 2008.*

1. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District, through the Annual Corporate Budget intends to apply the sum mentioned below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

Contract No.	Project Location	Approved budget for the Contract
GS-07-003 (Area I)	Main Office, Tacloban City, Nula-Tula Depot, Tacloban City; Kassel Pumphouse; Kassel Reservoir, San Gerardo Pumphouse, and Kristina Pumphouse 30 guards (maximum)	P 4,242,600.00
GS-07-003A (Area II)	Lolita Heights Pumping Station, Siren Pumping Station; COA Hydrant; San Joaquin Hydrant; Tanauan Pumping Station; and Tolosa Pumping Station 21 guards (maximum)	P 2,969,820.00
GS-07-003B (Area III)	RFPD Entrance RFPD Green House RFPD Gate B RFPD Primary Station RFPD Taisel RFPD Guest House RFPD Intake Dam Dagami Settling Basin 28 guards (maximum)	P 4,101,180.00
GS-07-003C (Area IV)	Watershed protected area of LMWD 14 guards (maximum)	P 1,979,880
	TOTAL ABC	P 13,293,480.00

2. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District now invites bids from eligible bidders for the Security Services for CY 2008 of the above various offices/facilities of LMWD. Contract duration is one (1) year. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the bidding documents, Instruction to Bidders
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Leyte Metropolitan Water District and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from October 24, 2007 to November 8, 2007 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Six Thousand Pesos (P6,000.00) in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 09, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at LMWD Conference Room.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 23, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of and in the amount stated below. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	*Minimum amt. in % of Approved Budget for the contract to be bid*
1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	*1%*
2. Bank Guarantee	*1.5%*
3. Surety Bond	*2.5%*

8. Bid opening shall be on November 23, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at LMWD Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Leyte Metropolitan Water District
A. Mabini Street, Tacloban City
Tel. No. (053) 321-4312

(Sgd.) VIOLETA C. SIMBULAN
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—Oct. 24, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office XII
Plaza de Español Bldg., Posadas cor. Abad Santos Sts., Koronadal City
Healthline (083) 228-9731-9735

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PhilHealth Regional Office XII (PRO XII)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Procurement of IP-based PABX
Location	PhilHealth PRO XII
Brief Description	Procurement of an IP-based system that is able to serve at least 48 ports (8 analog trunk lines, 32 local lines but only 20 will be activated, 16 IP ports but only 8 will be activated, and one digital port) (*Terms of Reference*(TOR) shall form part of the bid documents) with Cabling and Installation of IP-based PABX
Approved Budget	PhP1,000,000.00
Delivery Period	30 days

Prospective bidders should have an experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Bid Opening, Bid Security, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, Performance Security and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Advertisement of Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid (PhilGEPS Website)	October 24, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	October 31, 2007
3. Bid Opening	November 14, 2007
4. Post Qualification, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, and other procurement stages	November 21, 2007

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the **BAC Secretariat at the Administrative Office, 2/F of PRO XII, Plaza de Español Bldg., Posadas-Abad Santos Streets, City of Koronadal, South Cotabato** on or before **November 14, 2007.**

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **PhP1, 000.00** to the PhilHealth PRO XII Cashier.

PRO XII assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

PRO XII reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject any and all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) DR. EDSON F. PAMA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - October 24, 2007)

IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

IOM Legaspi Sub Office
672 University Homes, Washington Drive, Legaspi City
Tel No. (052) 4814182
www.iom.int

INVITATION FOR BIDS ERRATUM

IFB No. : LGP001 - 07

October 22, 2007

With reference to the Invitation for Bids (IFB Ref. No. LGP001-07) for the Supply and Delivery of Various Construction Materials for Bicol Core Permanent Shelter and Community Revitalization Assistant Project as published in the October 21, 2007 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the IOM BEAC hereby amends the second sentence in the second paragraph - *"The IOM - Bids, Evaluation and Award Committee ("BEAC") now invites interested Manufacturers and/or Suppliers ("Bidders") from Metro Manila and Bicol to bid for the Supply and Delivery of the following Construction Materials."* shall now read as **"The IOM - Bids Evaluation and Award Committee ("BEAC") now invites ALL eligible Manufacturers and/or Suppliers ("Bidders") to bid for the Supply and Delivery of the following Construction Materials:"**. Also, the first sentence of the third paragraph - *"Eligible Bidders from Metro Manila and Bicol may form a joint venture."* shall now read as **"ALL eligible Bidders may form a joint venture"**. The other contents shall remain as is.

(PDI Oct. 24, 2007)

Municipality of Sto. Niño, Samar
Construction of Ilo-Cabunga-an FMR

Bidding Documents
Invitation for Bids

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: October 24, 2007
ADB Loan No.: 1772-PHI
Contract No.: SP-08-014

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for **Construction of 9.78 Kms. Ilo-Cabunga-an Farm to Market Road in Sto. Niño, Samar.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   - (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as a Class **'Medium A'** contractor or better, and
   - (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor of three (3) road construction work projects valued at least Thirteen Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php13,500,000.00) each for single Medium A contractor.
2. The Municipality of Sto. Niño ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works, which includes road improvement/upgrading of 9.78 kms. Included is the construction and installation of cross-drainage structures, excavation, embankment, sub-base and base course. The Contract period for the works is 8 months (240 Calendar Days).
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at the office of the Employer, at

Nelson M. Guitones (BAC Chairman)
Office of the Municipal Assessor
Municipality of Sto. Niño
Province of Samar
Region VIII

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php8,000.00. Issuance of Bid Documents will be on November 07, 2007 to December 06, 2007. Pre-Bidding conference will be on December 10, 2007 at 10:00 in the morning at the Municipal Session Hall.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Two Percent (2%) of the total Bid Price in the form of cash, Manager's Check or Bank Guarantee or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the above address on or before 10:00 am on December 21, 2007. Bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on the aforementioned date, in the presence of bidders representative who choose to attend.
6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.

(Sgd.) **NELSON M. GUITONES**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI Oct 24 2007)

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office XI
R.C. Reyes St., Quimpo Blvd., Davao City
Healthline (082) 299-2494; 296-2265;298-3000 to 3002

PUBLIC BIDDING ON THE PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES

The **PhilHealth Regional Office XI, Davao City**(PROXI) wishes to invite bidders for the Procurement of SECURITY SERVICES:

15 Security Guards (SG) to be assigned in PhilHealth Regional Office XI, Davao City
12 Security Guards to be assigned in the four (4) PhilHealth Service Offices (SO) (3 SG per SO), namely: Digos SO, Tagum SO, Nabunturan SO, and Mati SO.

The Government of the Philippines, through PhilHealth, has provided funds for which this invitation is issued. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid is **Php 4,771,301.12.**

Interested parties are invited to the **Pre-Bid Conference on November 6, 2007, 10:00 AM** at the PhilHealth Regional Office XI, 3/F Karpentrade Building, McArthur Highway, Matina, Davao City.

The bid documents shall be available at the General Services Unit, Management Services Division, through Mr. Patrick Angelo L. Uy, PRO XI BAC Secretariat Head, from ***November 7 to November 16, 2007, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM***, upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Php 10,000.00.**

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished bid documents — eligibility requirements, technical proposal, and financial proposal in three separate sealed envelopes — in the bid box located at the **Management Services Division, PRO XI, 3/F Karpentrade Building, McArthur Highway, Matina, Davao City.**

Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on November 20, 2007 at 11:00 AM. The official time clock shall be the bundy clock located at 2nd floor of the same office building. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will no longer be accepted. **Opening of bids will follow at 1:00 P.M. of the same date.**

The BAC shall determine whether each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the **non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.**

The Bid Security shall be in an amount not lower than a percentage of the approved budget for the contract in the following forms:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	PhP 47,713.01
Bank Guarantee	One & a half percent (1 1/2%)	PhP 71,569.52
Surety Bond	Two & a half percent (2 1/2%)	PhP 119,282.53

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos.: (082) 299-2075 and (082) 299-3731.

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PhilHealth further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or to declare a failure of bidding, or not to award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) RAUL M. ODUCAYEN
Chairperson, PRO XI BAC

(PDI - October 24, 2007)

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